THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 17TH APRIL.

THE INDIAN CHARIVARI has the following about the Northbrook Memorial Meeting:

"The meeting at the Townhall on Saturday to consider the form of the memorial to Lord Northbrook, was, at first, one of the most promising entertainments that I have attended in Calcutta for some years. I had been rather envying the Ducks of Bombay the little extra excitement that Mr. Lewis had provided for them, in his general abuse of all things and persons in India, and Bombay in particular, but I little thought that we were so soon to be gratified by a similar exhibition of bad taste by a few members of the Indian League in Calcutta. Those young men, apparently wishing to air their eloquence in the Town Hall, and to see themselves in print afterwards, went to the meeting prepared to oppose the proposition for a memorial, and one of them even got so far as drinking a glass of water to clear the way for his intended flow of eloquence. But alas, the other members of the meeting had no desire to hear his eloquence, and after having been quietly snubbed by Sir R. Temple and Mr. Bell, the little band of leaguers left the meeting, amidst the hisses and laughter of those who remained. I should very much like to know what the Chairman, Sir. R. Temple, thought of his proteges of the Indian League after that behaviour. He has patted them on the back, and encouraged them in every possible way, and now they refuse to listen to the voice of the charmer. I should think he must feel very much like the rustic who warmed the frozen viper on his bosom."

A NICE QUESTION of law was raised the other day at the High Court. One Haribal Chundra G'hosha was charged with forgery, and had made a confession before Mr. Lambert, Deputy Commissioner of Police. [illegible] counsel for defendant, argued that, under section [illegible] Act 1872 a confession [illegible] not be proved against the [illegible] and that, as Mr. [illegible] the confession should [illegible] The Chief Justice held:

"There is no doubt that, looking at the various sections of Act IV. of 1868 B. C., the Deputy Commissioner of Police is not a member of the Police force within the meaning of that Act.

. . . . . .

But, in construing the 25th Section of the Evidence Act of 1872, I consider that the term Police officer should be read not in any strict technical sense, but according to its more comprehensive and popular meaning.

In common parlance and amongst the generality of people, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police are understood to be officers of Police, or in other words Police officers, quite as much as the more ordinary members of the force; and, although in the case of a gentleman in Mr. Lambert's position, there would not be, of course, the same danger of a confession being extorted from a prisoner by any undue means, there is no doubt that Mr. Lambert's official character, and the very place where he sits as Deputy Commissioner, is not without its terrors in the eyes of an accused person; and I think it better in construing a Section such as the 25th, which was intended as a wholesome protection to the accused, to construe it in its widest and most popular signification."

The sentence passed upon the man was however confirmed upon other grounds.

BEFORE the Royal Titles Bill passed the House of Commons Mr. Noel asked for despatches from the Governor General stating that it was the wish either of the princes or the people of India that her Majesty should make any addition to the royal style and titles. Mr. Disraeli replied as follows:

"It was the duty of the Government to furnish the House with all information that was of public interest, provided that it could be done with due regard to the public interest. He had conferred with his noble friend the Secretary of State for India on the subject, and that they were of opinion that these papers or despatches, or extracts from despatches, could not be produced for the reason that they involved political considerations with reference to the particular title contemplated by her Majesty, which they had scrupulously refrained from introducing into the debates, and it was hoped that their debates would conclude without introducing them. For these reasons he should not lay upon the table the papers asked for."

SIMILARLY Sir W. Harcourt asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether the policy of changing the style and title of the Crown, in the manner recommended by Her Majesty's Government, had been submitted for consideration and advice to the Governor-General of India in Council or to the Council of India.

Mr. Disraeli: "So far as such a change," as the hon. and learned gentleman terms what we call an addition to the title of Her Majesty, "may affect both the subjects within Her Majesty's territories in India, and also the rights, dignity, and honour of the native princes of India, as guaranteed to them by the Proclamation of November 1, 1858." I have to state that it has not been found necessary to submit that question "for consideration and advice to the Governor-General of India in Council or to the Council of India," because Her Majesty's Ministers are convinced that the addition to Her Majesty's [illegible], which the hon. and learned gentleman calls "change," will not in the least affect "the subjects within Her Majesty's territories in India" nor "the rights, dignity and honour of the native princes of India, as guaranteed to them by the Proclamation of 1858." ("Hear hear," and a laugh.)

WE GLEAN the following facts of Bishop Milman's life from the speech of Mr. Justice Macpherson at the Memorial meeting. Born in 1816, and educated at Westminister School and Oxford, he was ordained in 1839, and appointed to the curacy of Winwick. In 1841 he became Vicar of Chaddleworth, and held this office for ten years. Thence he removed to Lambourne, where he remained eleven years. In 1862 he was appointed to Great Marlow, of which he remained the Vicar until he came to India in the spring of 1867. So that he was a working Parish clergyman for twenty-eight years before he became a Bishop. And, from all accounts which have reached us of his life in those days, he was a working clergyman who threw no common amount of vigour and earnestness into his work. With the incidents of his career as the Metropolitan of British India the reader is already acquainted. At the time of his death he had completed his sixtieth year.

TUESDAY, 18TH APRIL.

WE HAVE MUCH PLEASURE in reproducing the following Resolution of the Asiatic Society regarding Dr. Oldham, who has retired from the country, and has consequently resigned the office of President of the Society:

"Resolved that the Council of the Asiatic Society record the feeling of unfeigned regret with which they accept Dr. Oldham's resignation of the post of President—a regret intensified by the disappointment of the earnest anticipations and hopes of the Council that Dr. Oldham's recent visit to Europe would have given him renewed strength and vigour, and would have enabled him to pursue his scientific useful career in this country for some time longer.

"The Council cannot permit Dr. Oldham to leave them without an expression of their grateful recognition of his unceasing exertions to forward the interest and promote the welfare of the society throughout the seventy-five years of his membership, during which time he has been a member of the Council for fourteen years.

"The Council have, at the same time, great pleasure in recording that Dr. Oldham has remained with them long enough to see the accomplishment of one of the objects for which he has striven on behalf of the society so long and so earnestly, and by which the financial condition of the society has now been placed upon a permanently sound and prosperous basis, and its power of usefulness vastly increased.

"The Council trust that the change of the climate Dr. Oldham is now compelled to seek, will prove thoroughly beneficial, and that, though from a distance, they may still have, for many years to come, the benefit of the counsels and assistance they have learned to appreciate so fully."

It was proposed to keep a portrait or bust of Dr. Oldham by way of a memorial of his connection with the Society.

IT WOULD APPEAR from a statement made by Lord John Manners in the House of Commons that the reduced rates of overland postage for India will come into force on the 1st of July next. The rates will then be six-pence *via* Southampton, and eight-pence *via* Brindisi, for letters not exceeding half an ounce. On newspapers *via* Brindisi the postage will be two-pence, and the book-postage will be three pence per two ounces.

SOME idea of the recent tornado that passed over France may be gathered from the fact that no fewer than 30,000 trees were blown down in the Forest of Campiegne, a part of which belongs to the Duc d'Aumale. Gaps 500 yards wide and 10,000 yards long have been made in the old forest. the damage is estimated at over a million francs. In many parts of Normandy a third of the apple trees have been destroyed, and the damage will take years to repair.

IT IS NOTIFIED that from the 1st April, 1876, (the commencement of the financial year) the Board of Revenue ceases to have the control of the business connected with civil suits. The Legal Remembrancer will, from that date, act directly under the orders of the Government of Bengal.

THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT reports that six Taluks, in the Tanjore district, which had been held on a rent-free tenure for charitable purposes, have been sold under judicial decrees for debts due by the manager of the property, and that no portion of the income of the villages is now available for the purposes of the charities for which they were originally assigned. The Governor General in Council remarks:

"The Governor-General in Council is surprised to learn that charitable endowments are in Madras liable to be sold to pay the debts of their temporary administrator: and as the case raises an important point of principle, I am desired to say that the Government of India, before passing orders on the question submitted, would wish to be favoured with the details of the case. I am to inquire more particularly whether such endowments are generally liable in Madras to be sold in satisfaction of the debts of the temporary incumbent, and if so, I am to request an expression of the views of His Excellency the Governor in Council on the expediency of the practice.

Cannot the manager be made personally liable? Was any security taken from him?

HOW THE TIMES gauges public opinion. In the debate on the Royal Titles Bill Mr. Disraeli related the following:

"I remember asking one of the most sagacious men who ever sat in this House—Mr. Walter father of one of our colleagues now in the House of Commons, and a gentleman who had great knowledge of the press and of public opinion—I asked him. "How do you ascertain what is public opinion?" He said:—

"Well, the way I ascertain public opinion is this. Petitions may be got up and meetings may be got up, or the country may feel a great deal without expressing its opinion either by petitions or public meetings; but there is an infallible test, and that is the post. The way I always know what is the real feeling of the country is by the letter-bag."

"Mr. Walter then had the conduct of one of the most powerful journals of the country—those journals which it is now the fashion to quote in the House of Commons—it never was done when I first entered it. (Cheers.)

WEDNESDAY, 19TH APRIL.

THE STATESMAN says that "as the Government seems determined not to publish the report made by Mr. Cockerell on the Stevens murder case, for reasons that are inexplicable, we have resolved to publish it ourselves." Our contemporary adds: "We should utterly despise ourselves, if we allowed any fear of offending influental interests in the city, to prevent our expressing our own conviction freely on the subject, the more so that the English Press of Calcutta is open to [illegible] part not unfrequently taken [illegible] unhappy nature; and since Government [illegible] unwilling to [illegible] report really is." We published [illegible] report to Scotchmen last.

[illegible] if what the *Bengal Times* reports be true [illegible] to be something like anarchy in the di[illegible] writer says:

"Of late, cases of a special nature have arisen [illegible] detection of offences and their perpetrators exceedingly difficult and conviction, as a result, next to impossible. It has become the practice where ill-feeling exists between people, for the party believing himself to be injured to assemble his friends, raid into his enemy's neighbourhood, and leave upon the person of the invaded lasting tokens of his visit. Some of these incursions are attended with dacoity, some with murder. Identification of the perpetrators, at all times difficult, is rendered doubly so from the fact that, witnesses who will speak to the minutest incident in detail, refuse to identify the persons of offenders, and thus in many cases justice is defeated just when the chain of evidence appears to be complete.

Our contemporary states that the District Magistrate lately visited the interior and his presence has restored confidence to some extent.

A REMARKABLE CASE of longevity is reported from Ceylon. Mr. Don Hendrick Perera Abeyesingha Weerekon of Ceylon, aged 106 years, died on the 21st ultimo. He never smoked, or took any alcoholic drink. He was sensible to the last. He was a boy when Kandy was taken, and knew the time when land was sold at a rupee an acre, and Colpetty and Slave Island block for 2s. 6d.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Times of India* has the following about the state of the weather in London in March:

"We have had the most extraordinary alternation of weather since I last wrote. Frost and thaw, snow and rain, wind and calm, sunshine and storm, winter and spring. You can form some idea of the severity of the weather when I say that in Scotland several trains were blocked up on Saturday and remained in that interesting condition till Monday. During that time the passengers suffered severely from cold and hunger. A more terrific night than Saturday in the north has not been known within the memory of the oldest person living. The furious gale drove the snow from the hills and fields, where it was massed in a blinding whirlwind which no living thing could face. The drift reached a great depth, and railway communication was wholly stopped in the North generally. It has been bad enough in the south, but I am glad to say nothing to equal what I have been describing.

THE TIMES OF INDIA has an elaborate and appreciative article on Lord Northbrook's administration. The writer thus concludes: "In all his public acts his first and chief consideration has been the interests of the public service, the good of the country, and welfare of the people. India may have had a more brilliant [illegible] we doubt very much if India has ever had a better ruler than Lord Northbrook."

AT A RECENT meeting of the Bombay Asiatic Society Dr. Carl V. Marchesetti of the Austrian

Lloyds Medical Service known as the author of several essays on classical archæological subjects read a paper on certain 'prehistoric remains in Western India,' which remains proved to be a petrified forest in the Southern Konkan not far from the Goa territory. He showed a sort of wedge, evidently cut out of a tree-trunk by some preadamite, whose tribe or race Dr. Marchessetti inferred to be possessed of iron tools.

THE American Senate has passed a bill reducing the next President's salary from 50,000 to 25.000 dollars, the latter being the sum at which it has always stood except for the last three or four years. This is a little more than the salary of a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Calcutta.

IT IS SAID that Russia is agitating to secure a good port on the Pacific; she has recently marched an army of 12,C00 men into the Corean territory on the northern frontier under pretence of pursuing brigands.

THE BOMBAY GUARDIAN finds fault with Lord Lytton for leaving Bombay on Sunday!

THURSDAY, 20TH APRIL.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following from our Assam Correspondent:

The *Gazette of India* of the 8th instant contains orders of the several appointments and promotions in the Accounts Branch of the Public Works Department. Favoritism is the order of the day and it preponderates in D.P.W. which it would be uncharitable to expose where so many parties are concerned. But I must say that in a few cases real merit has been rewarded also. Mr. Alexander Wilson very zealously co-operated, not long ago, with Major S. T. Trevor. R. E. to carry out the most needed reforms in the Department in Assam and rendered most valuable services to the Government of Bengal in auditing the Behar Famine accounts. Consequently his promotion to 1st Grade Assistant Examinership has given general satisfaction. It is however much to be regretted that the claims to promotion of Babu Navin Chandra Rai, Deputy Examiner have been repeatedly overlooked He is the only native gentleman ever selected in that line of the service and has been very creditably serving the State since his appointment to the present grade.

Since the notification conferring the title of "Roy Bahadoor" on "*Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner*" (?) Shadhone Chandra was published, I have been making inquiries to know who that dignatory is but failed to trace his whereabouts. In a resolution published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 19th June last the Chief Commissioner was pleased to mention the names of the Honorary Magistrates, who rendered actual service to the Government which however gives no information about "Shadhone Chandra." I hope the *Assam Gazette* will unravel the mystry.

Both the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner will be shortly placed in charge of Districts and their places in the Secretariat will be taken up, it is said, by Messrs Ridsdale and Trotter. Mr. Johnson well deserves promotion, but his absence from the Secretariat will be keenly felt by the public since he is the life and soul of the Administration. Assistant Secretary Captain Peet is no doubt a clever gentleman, but his promotion to a Deputy Commissionership will mar the prospects of some senior officers of considerable experience and great promise.

A CORRESPONDENT at Kujrah, a railway station on the East Indian line, in the Monghyr district, complains of the prevalence of dacoities in that place. He mentions that one night last month the station-master's residence was robbed and his wife ill-treated and her jewels snatched off, and all this occurred while the station-master and his assistants were engaged in attending on an up-train.

A CORRESPONDENT from Cooch Behar writes to say that fires are the order of the day in that part of the country, and that visits from wild buffaloes, tigers, and other beasts are frequent. A very creditable feat of sportsmanship was exhibited by a Native Head Constable named Madhub Sing, who shot a rhinoceros. A Havildar of a Native regiment also shot a tiger.

WE LEARN they have set up a reading room at Jamalpore through the assistance of the Superintendent of the Locomotive Department of the East Indian Railway at that station, who has placed the old theatre room at their disposal. Amongst the native gentlemen, Babu Doorgachurn Bhuttacharjea is mentioned as one who takes a great interest in the undertaking and has done much to promote its stability.

A CORRESPONDENT wishes to know whether the Ramgopal Memorial Fund has been made over to the Calcutta Justices for the construction of the new Burning Ghat at Nimtolla, and proposes, that if such has been the case, the ghat may be called after the name of the lamented deceased. The fund has not been made over to the Justices.

THE DEATH is reported in the prime of life of Professor Siegmund, a German Orientalist of great distinction. The professor had the misfortune of falling down a precipice at Amathes, in Cyprus, where he was engaged in the excavations undertaken by the American Government. He died on the spot.

A SOCIETY has just been started in Paris under the name of "The General Association for the Study and Practice of Cremation." The presidency has been offered to Victor Hugo. The cremationists of Germany have resolved to hold an annual meeting, in the month of April at Gotha, where the Government has officially sanctioned their mode of disposing of the dead, and permitted its public use.

THE TIMES OF INDIA SAYS that the number of spinning and weaving factories in the Bombay Presidency increased during 1875 from 22 to 40, and there are now 886,098 spindles and 8,537 looms. There can be no fear of cotton mills being overdone in India, for the goods and yarns now exported from Great Britain to India, it is estimated, keep employed 6,000,000 spindles and 85,000 power looms."

FRIDAY, 21ST APRIL.

SO MR. MARGARY'S death is avenged. A telegram has been received from Theyetmao to the effect that Mr. Margary's murderers will be executed on the 5th proximo. The escort starts on the 20th for Bhamo, arriving at its destination in time to witness the execution of seventeen persons implicated and condemned to death.

THE FIRST QUESTION of any importance, which has been decided by Lord Lytton since his arrival, is the memorial of the "poor Whites." The Home Secretary writes that "the Government of India cannot hold out any expectation that they will be able to assist in the establishment of Colonies and Industrial Homes for the exclusive benefit of Europeans and Eurasians, nor do the Government of India consider it expedient to appoint a commission to inquire into European and Eurasian destitution." The letter of the Government of India is dated the 15th instant, and we therefore presume that it has the sanction of Lord Lytton.

IT IS AMUSING to notice how opinions differ among our contemporaries. While the *Statesman* is lauding the late Lord Mayo to the skies in his attempt to run down Lord Northbrook, the *Indian Daily News* writes as follows:

"Remarks have occasionaly been made of late about Lord Mayo's concern for the people, and about his determination to get rid in time of the obnoxious income tax: and it is pardonable enough, on the part of the men whom his rare social charms drew round him, to seek to cover the terrible blunders of his immoral rule. But in writing history, it is impossible to descend to the devices of courtiers; and there is no reason to fear, that any one accustomed to deal with the evidence of passing events, will find any difficulty in discriminating between the imperfectly developed good intentions of Lord Mayo; which were never moulded into facts, and the uprightness of Lord Northbrook, which, in the teeth of the opposition of councillors who had intimidated his predecessor, dared to do what he knew to be right.

And we venture to say that the "British Indian" journalist is right.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Lucknow Witness* writes to that journal:

"The letter of your Calcutta correspondent in your issue of the 17th of March, contains a most serious imputation upon the character of the Missionaries of Calcutta. Of more than fifty ministers and missionaries stationed in that city, of whom the larger number are 'missionaries to the heathen,' it is said that only two or three ever preach to the heathen at all, and even then, not regularly. What will the Church of Christ in other lands think of this? What will men of the world (writers for the secular press, for instance,) think of it, who were wont to look upon Christianity and its propagators with suspicion? If the charge be untrue, they should, to a man, indignantly deny it. I cannot help thinking that your correspondent has been misinformed."

A correspondent of the *Friend of India* in reply to the above says: "The truth seems to be that the Christian public (missionaries included) is not consumed with zeal for the conversion of the natives. The public contributes a few rupees, asks the missionaries to dinner and evening parties, and has done its duty. As for the missionaries, they are teachers, not preachers. There are some of them who have been many years in the country, who not only cannot preach, but cannot converse on any general subject, in any vernacular tongue." The Indian Mission, like many other Indian institutions, is a sham, though we readily admit that there are good, honorable and devoted men in it.

THE FOLLOWING is a summary of the evidence before the Parliamentary Select Committee appointed to investigate the causes of the fall of silver:

"Sir Hector said he was a partner in a firm of bullion brokers, and had devoted much attention to statistics respecting the production of silver. The best information procurable was that the aggregate annual production of silver ranged from £8,000,000 sterling in 1852 to £16,000,000 in 1875. Mr. Pixley, however, thought this estimate was below the mark, and that the annual production of silver was about £18,000,000. Sir Hector Hay said that the demonetization of silver by Germany had been a cause, but very unnecessarily, of the depreciation in the value of silver inasmuch as the amount demonetized was insufficient to depreciate the value to the extent to which it had fallen. He believed the depreciation had resulted from a panic among the buyers of silver. He did not attribute the depreciation at all to increased production in the United States. In answer to Mr. Kirkman Hodgson, the witness said that at least £2,000,000 sterling of silver went annually from London into the manufacturing districts for conversion into articles of use or ornament. In answer to Mr. Shaw, the witness said that the depreciation began in 1872. The most rapid fall had been within the last three months. The real cause was that the depression of trade in India had depreciated the Indian exchange, and that had had an effect again upon the value of silver. He believed that in the course of a few years silver would recover its value, unless France demonetized her silver."

WE HAVE RECEIVED a small brochure entitled "the Loyal Hours, being a couple of poems to welcome. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh on their respective advents to India" by Babu Guruchurn Dutt. This gentleman is an old votary of the Muses, and well known as the author of School-Hours. Although the verses have faults of diction and metre, we cannot too highly commend the feeling of loyalty which breathes through them. It is worthy of note that the author is verging on sixty, and still worships the Muses.

SATURDAY, 22ND APRIL.

THE GOVERNMENT of Mysore have resolved to cultivate bamboo plantations on an extensive scale in the Mysore State forests.

IT IS STATED that the Madras Presidency has expended sixty thousand rupees more than Bengal on account of the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and that the Government of India have called upon the Madras Government to explain the causes of such an excess, accompanying the same by vouchers in support of the excess.

DR. KLEIN, a celebrated pathologist, traces the typhoid or enteric fever to a detestable little fungus, which is found chiefly in stagnant and polluted waters, and which has the power, whenever it is taken into the stomach, of propagating itself upon its membranes, and finally of spreading over and poisoning the whole organism.

SIR JAMES HANNEN, in summing up a case in the Divorce Court, said that it was a melancholy fact that a vast number of the cases which came into the Court had their origin in drink. Fully 75 per cent. of the cases which were brought before him were traceable to intemperance.

WE HAVE MUCH pleasure in drawing attention to an advertizement in another column announcing a new periodical, called the *Byabasayi*, a monthly vernacular journal of agriculture, commerce and manufacture. It will be conducted by Babu Sreenath Dutt, the Gilchrist scholar, who studied practical agriculture in England for two years. We wish the project every success.

THE BEHAR HERALD says that the Lieutenant Governor has punished Syud Abdoollah, Deputy Inspector of Schools, whose case we noticed the other day, with six months' suspension from duty, after which period he is to be restored to his post on probation for a year.

THE FIRST number of an Arabic newspaper, edited by M. Florian Pharoan, has just been published in Paris. It is intended for circulation amongst the Arabs of Algeria.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 17th April.—The Prince of Wales was splendidly welcomed both at Malta and Gibralter, to which latter place the Sultan of Morocco sent envoys to meet His Royal Highness.

Twenty thousand colliers in Yorkshire and Derbyshire have struck against reduction of wages.

Paris, 15th April.—Marshal Macmahon has issued a decree in which he states that the forthcoming exhibition in Paris is a proof of the confidence of the nation in its existing institutions and of the general desire manifested for uninterrupted peace.

Further changes have been made among the Prefects; but the Republicans are still dissatisfied.

The latest advices from Algeria report a fresh rising among the Arabs.

Paris, 18th April.—In consequence of the Spanish Government still insisting on the introduction of full religious liberty into Spain, parleying with the Vatican has been suspended.

Cairo, 13th April.—The Khedive has rejected the proposal made by a French Financial Company to launch a fresh loan in order to convert the floating debt.

Vienna, 11th April.—Servia is raising a forced loan, and is engaged in actively organizing an Army.

Washington, 13th April.—Congress has passed a Bill for replacing the fractional currency of the country by silver.

ART GALLERY CALCUTTA: Number of visitors during the week ending Saturday 22nd April (exclusive of students of the school of Art) Europeans 53; Natives 110; Total 163.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications:—1 The Tanjore Mahratta Principality in Southern India. Second Edition. By William Hickey, Pleader, Madras Presidency. 2. The Travels of Guru Tegh Bahadur and Guru Gobind Sing. Translated from the original Gurmukhi, by Sirdar Attar Sing, Chief of Bhadur. 3 Letters of Government and the Civil Revenue and Criminal authorities conveying their acknowledgments and thanks for acts of liberality and public-spiritedness on the part of the Raja of Sunborsa previous to the Famine of 1874. 4. Official correspondence regarding the arrangements made by Harbullubh Narain Sing Zemindar, and other Zemindars of Bhagulpore for the relief of distress during the Famine of 1873-74. 5 The Eighth Annual Report of the Chorebagan

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

Female School, Session 1875. 6 Byam Bodha or an Elementary Treatise on Gymnastics in Bengalee. By Dwarkanath Mookerjea, Teacher of Gymnastics.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1876.

DEPUTATIONS TO LORD LYTTON.

ON THURSDAY last three Deputations waited upon the new Viceroy with addresses of welcome, the first from the British Indian Association, the second from the Mahomedan Literary Society, and the third from the Trades' Association. We give below the address of the British Indian Association :

My Lord,—We, the Committee of the British Indian Association, meeting in Calcutta, approach your Lordship to offer you a cordial welcome to our country and our respectful congratulations on your assumption of the exalted office of Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

Although a stranger to this part of the world, your Lordship is no stranger to the Science of Government, not only from your knowledge of the institutions of your own country, itself a model of civilization, but also from your experience of the varied institutions of Continental Europe, with which your Lordship was associated in diplomatic relations. It would be presumptuous on our part to remind your Lordship that in the administration of this country, where from the absence of the free institutions of the United Kingdom or the Colonies, bureaucratic prejudices are necessarily strong, the fresh English mind which every successive Governor General brings is of the greatest practical importance.

Your Lordship assumes the reins of the Indian Government at an auspicious epoch in the history of British rule in India. The Empire is at peace ; the finances, notwithstanding the serious disturbance caused by the fall in the value of silver, are in a healthy condition, and the tide of progress is flowing without interruption. The august visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to this country has just closed, and as a memorial of that visit and as a new bond of sympathy between England and India Her Gracious Majesty the Queen is about to assume the title of Empress of India —an act of grace, which is sure to evoke the liveliest feeling of satisfaction and gratitude among the people of this country. Your Lordship inaugurates this new era as the first representative of Her Imperial Majesty, and we feel confindent that your Lordship's administration will be fraught with results commensurate with the dignity and grandeur of the first Imperial Dynasty of England in India.

My Lord, as the representative of the Empress of India, it is your part to command, and as loyal subjects it is our duty to obey, but it is the generous principle of English rule to govern the people in unison with their sentiments, feelings and opinions, and it has consequently become our proud privilege to place our humble views and suggestions, elucidating the wants and wishes of the community, for the consideration of Government. We hope that your Lordship will be pleased to accord to us the same privilege that had been accorded to us by your illustrious predecessors, and that in pursuing the great and complex problem of Government among an alien people, alien in language, customs and religion, but not in attachment to the British Crown, your Lordship will kindly bear in mind that in the representative of the Throne of England in this country its teeming millions have their natural protector and guardian.

His Excellency gave the following reply :

Mr. President, Noblemen, and Gentlemen,—It is gratifying to me to receive my first address of welcome to Calcutta from an Association of influential Native gentlemen, whose enlightened activity in support of the interests they represent, and in the cause of social science, is already honorably known to me.

As the Queen's Representative in this country, I cordially appreciate the spirit of loyal attachment to Her Throne which characterizes the language of your address.

Having recently been honored by my august Mistress with frequent opportunities of learning from Her own lips how sincere is Her solicitude for the welfare of Her Indian subjects, I deem it my duty to assure you that there is no portion of the Queen's vast and varied dominions more cherished by Her Majesty than this ancient home of that great Aryan race from which the Hindu and the Briton claim a common ancestry.

For the kind expressions of confidence and good-will with which you have been pleased to allude to myself, I thank you sincerely.

It is true, as you remark in your address, that I have not hitherto served the Crown in India. But I can honestly say that I have always felt a deep interest in the history and traditions, and also (so far the labors of others have rendered it accessible to me) in the literature of a land which has enriched the memory of mankind with fables older than Æsop's, and heroic songs of higher ethic strain than Homer's.

All who are associated in the administration of such an Empire as this are the trustees of mighty interests ; and I assure you that no Governor-General ever felt more deeply than I do the responsibility of the charge confided to him. To conduct the Government of India with firmness, moderation, and impartiality, will be my constant endeavour.

You allude in loyal terms to the recent auspicious visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and to the intention of our Gracious Sovereign to add to her present titles one which will specially identify the Crown of England with its imperial possessions in India.

You rightly recognize in these acts fresh proofs of the unceasing and solicitous affection with which this Empire is regarded by the Queen and Her Majesty's august family.

India has enjoyed under the rule of my distinguished predecessor a period of unusual tranquility. The foresight and fortitude of the late Viceroy enabled him to make timely and ample provision for a great famine without disturbing the natural course of trade ; and although, indeed, the sudden and continued depreciation in the value of silver, to which you have alluded, is a phenomenon which cannot be contemplated without the most serious anxiety, yet, thanks to the sagacity with which they have been administered during the last four years, the difficulty finds our finances in a sound condition.

Nothing, however, can better promote those efforts for the continued security and increasing prosperity of the Empire which will certainly be made by myself and my honorable Colleagues than the hearty support of unofficial but influential bodies such as the Association which you so worthily represent.

We shall at all times be willing to consider your views and suggestions on those subjects to which your attention has been given, knowing, as we do, that the true interests of the people and its Government are identical.

To the address of the Mahomedan Literary Society His Excellency replied as follows :

Mr. President, Noblemen, and gentlemen,—I thank you sincerely for your kind address of welcome.

I regard with much satisfaction the good work in which your Society has been engaged during the past fourteen years of its existence, and it will at all times afford me sincere pleasure to encourage and support by such means as may be in my power, your well-timed efforts in the cause of Mahomedan education in India.

It so happens that at various periods of my professional career, and in many parts of the world I have been on terms of private intimacy, as well as official intercourse, with Mahomedan statesmen and gentlemen, unsurpassed in political sagacity or general scholarship by the most illustrious of my acquaintances. I shall always esteem it a privilege to have known such men and to have been honored by their friendship You may therefore be assured of my desire to see possessed and appreciated by all the Queen's Mahomedan subjects in India every possible opportunity of intellectual culture. But the opportunity can only be created by the desire for it; and on this subject I need not remind you of the wise and weighty words which were recently addressed to you by Lord Northbrook, whose sympathetic interest in the success of your Association I sincerely share.

The social advancement of the people of this vast Empire is indeed an undertaking worthy of a great Government. But no efforts on our part can avail without the hearty cooperation of gentlemen of position and influence like yourselves.

I heartily wish you well in the continuance of your labors: and I shall watch with much interest the progress of a Society which has merited the encouragement received by it from all my predecessors.

The following was the reply to the Trades' Association :

MR JENNINGS, WARDENS, AND MEMBERS, CALCUTTA TRADE'S ASSOCIATION,—

It gives me sincere pleasure to receive the congratulations you offer me on my assumption of the office of Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

I share your satisfaction at the present tranquil state of affairs in this country. I shall not fail to take advantage of it by devoting my time to those pressing financial and administrative questions which demand early attention.

The manifestations of hearty loyalty evinced by the people of India during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales have been warmly appreciated by the Queen, and cannot fail to draw closer the bonds of sympathy which already unite Her Majesty's British and Indian subjects in a common allegiance to the Throne.

In making himself personally acquainted with this important portion of Her Majesty's Empire, the Prince of Wales carried out a long cherished object ; and His Royal Highness expressed to me, not many weeks ago, the intense pleasure he had derived from its realization, and the value he attached to the sympathy and devotion with which he had been received by all classes of the Queen's subjects in this country.

I cordially agree with you that India must be governed with special regard to its own interests ; but I cannot believe that English and Indian interests, rightly understood, can ever be really conflicting, although there may be, at times, an apparent or temporary rivalry between them.

You have referred in your address to the question of the cotton duties. So far as I am yet aware, nobody in or out of India seriously desires to see these duties maintained for purely protective purposes. It is therefore only as an item of revenue that their maintenance can properly be advocated. But all revenue duties are not equally unobjectionable ; and were our finances in such a condition as to admit of any reduction in those sources of revenue which are derived from taxes on consumption, I must frankly say that I would gladly see our tariff purged, not only of these cotton duties, but also of some others, which I cannot regard with unmitigated satisfaction.

But you have fairly observed that the import duties on cotton manufactures represent a large proportion of our whole customs revenue ; and starting as we do this year, with a surplus unavoidably reduced to the very narrowest limits ; pursued, in spite of all our precautions by an expenditure, of which the natural tendency is to increase ; and confronted by the still unconjecturable consequences of depreciated currency I think that no one responsible for the financial administration of this Empire would at present venture to make the smallest reduction in any of its limited sources of income.

Let me, however, take this opportunity of assuring you that, so far as I am aware, the abolition or reduction of the cotton duties, at the cost of adding one six-pence to the taxation of this country, has never been advocated, or even contemplated, by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

It is due to Lord Salisbury that I should remind you of this, and give my honest testimony to the unselfish assiduity and generous consideration with which his whole time and attention are devoted to questions affecting the interests of this country,—questions which he is naturally bound to consider from an imperial and parliamentary point of view. It is due to myself, and the confidence you express in my character, that I should also assure you, on my own behalf, that nothing will ever induce me to tax the people of India for any exclusive benefit to their English fellow-subjects. I deeply share your interest in the prosperity of our native manufactures, and your appreciation of their importance; but I look forward to the day when these promising growths of native industry, leaning on no artificial support, will flourish in the bracing climate of free commercial competition

I have now frankly indicated to you my general views in regard to this question. But on this and every other subject my judgment is entirely unbiassed. Whilst accepting to the fullest extent the manifold responsibilities of the power entrusted to my hands,—a power which I believe to be unreservedly recognized by those on whose advice Her Majesty has been pleased to invest me with it,—I welcome, as the pleasantest of my duties as Governor-General, the most unrestricted recourse to the valuable advice and assistance of those experienced administrators who are associated with me in the Government of this Empire.

I gladly recognized in your Association the mouthpiece of an important section of the non-official community of Calcutta, and I wish you every prosperity."

Nothing could be more hearty than the reply to the British Indian Association. It is worthy of the scholarly statesman at the helm of affairs. The commencement of Lord Lytton's reign is full of promise. What could be more gratifying than the assurance of His Lordship that " no Governor-General ever felt more deeply than I do the responsibility of the charge confided to him." The reply to the Trades' Association contains his views on the important question of the cotton duty. If we understand them aright, we can say that there is no fear of its immediate repeal. We may remind His Lordship as we remarked in our last that the pressure of this duty on consumers in India is infinitessimal—only 9 pie per head per annum. So that the philanthropic plea of Manchester is worth nothing. We are not surprised that Lord Lytton sought to vindicate Lord Salisbury. It is needless for us to say that the people of India are fully alive to His Lordship's rare abilities, great force of character, and solicitude from their welfare, but they cannot understand his anxiety to conciliate Manchester at the expense of India. It is this feature of His Lordship's policy, which has filled them with distrust and dissatisfaction.

THE MOFUSSIL MUNICIPALITIES' BILL.

GREAT dissatisfaction seems to prevail in the Mofussil on account of the haste with which the Mofussil Municipalities' Bill was passed by the Bengal Council. It could not be said that the Bill had not been thoroughly discussed, for every important point was threshed out in debate, though as a matter of course the standing official majority were always ready to override the non-official minority. At the same time we must candidly confess that considerable improvement has been made in the Bill as it was presented by the Select Committee. Still as it was settled by the Committee of the whole Council it was open to serious objections. It is to be deeply regretted that the Council did not afford the public an opportunity to say their say regarding the amended Bill—the alterations made in it were so numerous and material that sufficient time ought to have been allowed to the public to give their opinion upon it. The Bill did not press in the least—it was a consolidation measure, and it would have been all the same whether the Bill was passed in April or in November next. We are aware that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor would in a few days leave for Darjeeling, and the Council would have a recess, a holiday which it has fairly earned, but the Bill might have been allowed to stand over till November next without the slightest injury to public business. Such a course would have prevented public dissatisfaction, and might have led to further improvement in the light of public opinion, which would have come from the Mofussil. As matters now stand the Mofussil public are driven to the necessity of petitioning the Viceroy to withhold his assent to the Bill. This course cannot be desirable for the sake of the Government of Bengal, but it is inevitable. We have received loud complaints from some of the centres of Mofussil life on the subject of this Bill, such as Dacca, Krishnaghur and Berhampore. The people in the Mofussil complain that they have not been fairly dealt with by the Bengal Council. Here is a Bill, which will affect Mofussil society at all stages of progress and civilization, from the first class Municipalities of the Suburbs of Calcutta and Howrah to the smallest Chowkidari village, and yet the Bill was hurried through the Council at a railway speed, sometimes the Council sitting three times a week, and no opportunity was afforded to the people to express their opinions and wishes. It is notorious that the present system of municipal administration has been productive of the greatest dissatisfaction in the country, and if the Municipal Acts were to be consolidated, they ought to have been so amended as to remove the present causes of dissatisfaction. But far from doing so the Bill as passed by the Council we fear will aggravate those causes. It is well known what an outburst of feeling there was when Sir George Campbell

forced his Municipalities' Bill through the Council, and had it not been for the firm and humane action of Lord Northbrook, the people would have had no redress. The present Bill is based upon Sir George Campbell's Bill *minus* some of the taxation clauses, but it is much more severe that its predecessor in the sanitary clauses, and so it is open to many of the grave objections which Lord Northbrook had taken to the previous Bill. It is to be regretted that the first measure of the Bengal Council, which the new Viceroy will have to review, is one regarding which there is a deep feeling of dissatisfaction among the people, not of one or two towns, but of the whole province, but we feel confident that however reluctant His Excellency might feel to interfere at the outset of his career with the course of local legislation he will not refuse to give a patient hearing to the people's protest and to do justice which the exigencies of the case may demand.

The Bill has some most objectionable features. In the first place, although the mover of the Bill had announced that there would be no increase of taxation, still the horse and carriage tax has in some particulars been doubled, the road toll has been extended to places, where it was not formerly levied, and fees will be charged for the removal of business refuse. Now in Mofussil towns the people can hardly afford to keep conveyances, but the pressure of taxation will fall on the new hackney coaches, which are springing up in many Mofussil towns, and it would be most injudicious to obstruct this new traffic by a heavy impost. Toll-bars are a nuisance; this is admitted everywhere; the Government has over and over acknowledged the injurious character of this mode of taxation, and it would have been better if it had abolished it altogether. But there are certain municipalities, which derive a large income from this source, and it would not have been wise from a financial point of view to remit it without replacing the loss of revenue by some other means. Under the circumstance we cannot blame the Council for continuing the levy of road tolls in those Municipalities, where the same were now levied, but there was no good reason whatever for legalizing the toll-bar as a general institution. It would lead to great evils without producing a commensurate benefit. As for the charge for the removal of business refuse, most of the Mofussil towns being rural towns, this power if rightly exercised is not calculated to bring in an appreciable income, but if it be abused, it will prove most vexatious and annoying. There are one or two towns, such as the Suburbs of Calcutta and Howrah to which this provision may apply, but in this as in other matters we are of opinion that there ought to have been a separate chapter added applicable to them specially. In the second place the objects of municipal expenditure have been greatly multiplied. Knowing as we do that nearly half the income of first class Municipalities is spent upon the Police establishment, and miscellaneous and contingent charges and that the second class municipalities after paying the Police have an average income of Rs. 250 per month, we submit that it is absurd to provide that the municipal fund should be applicable to the establishment of "gardens," although gardens are plentiful in the Mofusil, the construction and maintenance of "embankments," although there is a special Act providing for such works, for the erection and maintenance of "wharves and jetties," although in commercial Calcutta such works are paid for out of the Port Fund, the contribution of the education grant to missionary schools, although the primary object of these schools is the subversion of the religion of the tax-payers, the maintenance of the establishment in the offices of the District Magistrate and Divisional Commissioner for the supervision of municipal work, although it is the duty of the general administrative agency to superintend all business connected with the administration of the country, and the contribution by one municipality to another on the pretext of works of common utility on the principle of a municipal federation. It may be easily imagined that with the limited income, which most of the Mofussil Municipalities possess, they can hardly meet their legitimate wants in respect of the conservancy, water supply and roads, and to saddle them with the charges we have mentioned above would be tempting them to fritter away their resources and then to seek to impose heavier burthens upon the people. We are of opinion that too much caution cannot be exercised in the administration of the Municipal fund, and it cannot be conducive to the interest of the tax-payers to increase the discretion of the Municipal Commissioners for expenditure by increasing the purposes for such expenditure.

As regards the system of Municipal Government prescribed in the present Bill it gives much less power to the Municipal Commissioners than what they possess under the existing Acts. There is a triple Government provided in it, 1stly the Municipal Commissioners, 2ndly the District Magistrate, and 3rdly, the Divisional Commissioner. The Budget cannot be passed without the sanction of the Divisional Commissioner, though his sanction is not required by the existing law. The Municipal Commissioners are now much more independent. We take leave to doubt whether the growth of municipal self-government will be fostered under such a system of checks and counter-checks. The Bill then provides that if the Municipal Commissioners make a default in certain matters, the Divisional Commissioner will have the power practically to suspend them. The powers given to the Divisional Commissioner under this head are hardly consistent with the principle of municipal self-government.

But by far the most objectionable provisions in the Bill are the sanitary regulations. These regulations, particularly the building and bustee regulations, are mostly copied from the Calcutta Bill. We cannot too often repeat that the Mofussil towns are not like Calcutta; they are for the most rural towns; they are not densely populated; they have no system of under-ground drainage or diffuse water supply; they have hardly the means for ordinary conservancy, and yet they are required to conform to the sanitary regulations, which are considered too stringent even for Calcutta. What could be more futile for instance than that a person building a house in a Mofussil town should furnish a plan—who is to make the plan, there being scarcely professional surveyors and architects in such towns, and if a plan could be made by a professional person, how expensive would it be to the poor people in the rural towns? Then they are to shew the levels and lowest floor of the houses to be built, but where is the necessity for all this, when there is no system of under-ground drainage? Again, no person is to be allowed to dig earth or make a hole without the special permission of the Municipal Commissioners. Now, it is well known that the nation in Bengal lives in mud huts, and how are the people to get earth, if they are not to be allowed to make a hole without the special permission of the Commissioners? Are they to make an application to the Commissioners for permission every time they may require earth for domestic purposes? Then are they not to be allowed to make bricks, and how can they make bricks without earth? Then the blocks of huts are to be arranged according to the direction of the Commissioners, leaving large pathways or roads, but in Mofussil towns the bustees are not crowded, and if the people are not allowed to select their own sites for building huts, the occupier will be subjected to great hardship and the owner to much loss. The object of this rule is to secure proper conservancy, but the Municipalities have hardly funds enough to sweep their own roads and remove the rubbish from them. Are the owners and occupiers to be charged with a new tax for the conservancy of the bustees? We admit that some of these provisions might be applicable to such towns as the Suburbs of Calcutta, Howrah and Dacca, but we repeat there ought to have been inserted a separate chapter for their special benefit. It is true that these provisions would be enforced at the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor, but we conclude in the words of Lord Northbrook, used in his minute vetoing Sir George Campbell's Bill, "no feeling of confidence in the discretion of any one man in whose power the administration of a law may for the time being be placed, would in His Excellency's opinion justify him in assenting to a measure, to any essential provisions of which, if fully brought into operation, he entertains such serious objections as he does to some of those, which are contained in the Bengal Municipalities' Bill."

EUROPEAN AND NATIVE OPINION.

THE PIONEER fairly discusses the philosophy of Lord Northbrook's popularity in India. His Lordship possesses the confidence and esteem of the native community to a greater extent than many of his predecessors, while his own countrymen in India generally feel no enthusiasm about him. Our contemporary says: "It is not that Lord Northbrook is unpopular with the English community in Calcutta; his merits as a man of business, as a hard conscientious worker, are fully recognised: his financial administration is held to have been a success; his retirement at the present moment is regretted as likely to be injurious to the financial interests of the country; but there is no strong feeling about him, and men do not consider that a memorial in his case is called for. The natives on the contrary would give him, and probably will give him, two memorials instead of one; their admiration for him is unbounded, and their gratitude deeply felt and thoroughly sincere. Who are right and why this difference?" The writer adds, "we incline to the belief that, on the whole, the natives are nearer to the truth, and that their conception of the merits of Lord Northbrook's administration is the juster of the two. One fact stands out patent. When the present Viceroy came to India, and for some time before, the country was in a condition of disquiet. The income-tax, whether owing to inherent defects or to the manner in which it was worked, had produced very great discontent. The announcement by Lord Mayo that a sum of 80 or 90 millions sterling would have to be borrowed for public works of kinds, had added to the feeling of alarm. There was a vague impression among the people that they were driven too fast, that they were being experimented on; there was apprehension of fresh taxation, and worse than all, there was a want of confidence in the financial administration. The doubling of the income-tax in the middle of the year, one of those blunders which are worse than crimes, had given rise to sentiments of much doubt and suspicion, not to be easily allayed. Lord Northbrook leaves India in a state of perfect calm and contentment. The difference in the condition of public feeling as existing at his advent and at his departure, is in itself an incontrovertible proof of the general success of his home administration." This is true, but it is not the whole truth. It was not the Income tax only, which produced the popular discontent. It was the high-handed measures, legislative, administrative, and fiscal, which certainly did not commence with Lord Mayo, but which culminated in his reign, and which had spread dissatisfaction and discontent from one end of the country to the other. What could be a better evidence of the state of the popular mind than the petitions which poured in from different parts of the country for a Royal Commission of Enquiry? The land we repeat thirsted for rest, and Lord Northbrook gave it rest. This was the fruit of his beneficent policy, which he had consistently pursued throughout his reign, and could there be a soul which would not feel grateful to him for it? Lord Mayo had himself declared that "a feeling of discontent and dissatisfaction existed among every class, both European and native, on account of the constant increase of taxation which had for years been going on," and that "the continuance of that feeling as a political danger, the magnitude of which could hardly be overestimated," and with the *Pioneer* we defy any impartial man to say that great, very great credit is not due to the Governor General, whose four years' administration have resulted in the complete extinction of that feeling. Why then, our contemporary asks, has not the European community recognised this truth as well as the native?—and he thus answers his own question. The answer is, "it has recognised it but vaguely, unconcernedly, as one recognises a truth in which one is not directly interested. The abolition during Lord Northbrook's tenure of office, of the hated non-agricultural cess in Bombay and of the obnoxious house tax in Madras, in no way affected the European community of Calcutta who as a body are even ignorant of these changes; but the educated natives of Bengal recognized the influence of the new

principles of financial administration, and felt increased confidence in the man under whose sway the most obnoxious taxes in each part of the country were being given up one after another." "The education question in Bengal was one which appealed very closely to the feelings of the upper classes. It was, however, necessarily a purely native question; for the general European community it could possess no interest whatever." The writer then goes on: "Perhaps what has endeared the retiring Viceroy to the people of Bengal more than any thing else, is the restraint he put on Sir G. Campbell. No man was ever so disliked before by the people of Bengal as was the late Lieutenant Governor. This suspected belief that Bengal was Galilee whence no good thing could come, his manifest partiality for non-regulation procedure and government, his attempts to override law by executive authority, distasteful to a people who have lived under a reign of law for so many years, his disregard of the experience and opinions of men who differed with him, his *sic volo sic jubeo* system of administration, were resented as insults, and feared as the probable causes of detrimental changes. It was a fortunate thing for Bengal that Lord Northbrook appreciated the wisdom of moderation and the necessity of paying some deference in legislation to the feelings and wishes of the people. When, in connection with the Bengal Municipal Bill and on other occasions he forced Sir George to stand and wait, there was a sense of relief throughout the Province, and the Viceroy was regarded with a feeling made up of the admiration entertained by the crowd for Van Amburgh pommeling the lion in his cage, and of the gratitude bestowed by the passengers in a ship on the captain who has safely brought them through the storm. Here again there exists no sympathy between the native and the European. Though not personally popular, the late Lieutenant Governor was in no way obnoxious to the non-official community of his countrymen." Then as regards the famine, our contemporary says, "that the natives are honestly and sincerely grateful to Lord Northbrook for the interest he took in the condition of the poor people; they see in his action the inauguration of a new system of policy, something widely different from the cold hard lines in which the action of Government usually travels, and they purposely put on one side the economical and business view of the matter which the Englishman chiefly looks at."

Our contemporary has thus correctly represented the difference between the European and Native feeling towards Lord Northbrook. But what is the cause of this difference? It is this—the European has no abiding interest in the country. Nine-tenths of the measures of Government do not affect him—and as a rule he cares not for the native. So it is immaterial to a high-minded Indian statesman what his countrymen may think of him. If he can by administering his trust faithfully, honestly and conscientiously secure the good will and contentment of the people of the country, what greater satisfaction can he have? And Lord Northbrook has had that satisfaction. The Europeans are generally pleased with the Viceroy who is hospitable and attentive. They were charmed with Lord Mayo's personal manners, but however agreeable his Lordship was to his own countrymen, he was not over-affable to the natives. He always kept them at a distance, and he consequently failed in securing their personal attachment. We admit that grace of manner is an essential quality in the Queen's representative in India, but if the Viceroy makes an invidious distinction of race and color in the personal treatment of the English and Indian subjects of Her Majesty, we cannot believe that his popularity with his own countrymen can compensate the want of it with the children of the soil. The true statesman is he, who looks with an equal eye upon all.

ORISSA.

ORISSA is in a ferment. We have received several letters bitterly complaining of the action of the local authorities in respect of the new Putwari rules. Although the Government lately issued instructions that these rules are not to be enforced until the next settlement, the local officers are carrying things with a high hand, and fining the zemindars for not complying with their requisitions. The question of the appointment of Patwaris in Orissa was raised by Sir George Campbell, and rules were accordingly framed by the Board. These rules have been approved by Sir Richard Temple, but they are to be brought into force on re-settlement of the land revenue. In sanctioning the rules Mr. Secretary Reynolds thus writes to the Board under date the 28th January 1876:

"No further orders are required at present in regard to Orissa, as it has been ascertained that to reestablish Patwarees now in Orissa would involve Government in an expenditure which would probably amount to not less than Rs. 85,000 a year and it has consequently been determined in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioner and the Board to take no steps for a general appointment of Putwarees until the re-settlement of the province when the necessary provision will be made in the settlement proceedings."

It will be thus seen that the Government ordered that the new rules are not to be brought into force at once in Orissa. But the Commissioner of the Orissa Division seems to be of a different opinion. The zemindars of Orissa lately petitioned the Government on the subject, and the Commissioner of the Division has submitted the following report to the Board of Revenue:

"It appears that immediately on the Board's approval of revised Putwary rules conveyed in orders No. 94 A of 11th May 1875, instructions were issued to Collectors to take measures to carry out the system, notes and copies of the rules were issued to Zemindars.

The Balasore Collector was met by a general refusal on the part of the Zemindars either to appoint Putwarees or to perform Putwaree's duty themselves. A daily fine was imposed on several leading Zemindars who headed the combination.

I enclose the fine statements and also copy of my orders thereon No. c-4 1555 C dated 13th February 1876 to which the Collector has replied that up to 6th March 1876 no attempt has been made to comply with the Putwaree rules and that the recusance on the part of the Zemindars continues though some of the leading men are paying a daily fine and there is no probability of cessation of the present passive resistance until result of their Memorial to Government is known.

When at Balasore I took the opportunity of discussing the new Putwary rules with most of the Zemindars who visited me, the general idea seemed to be:—

1. That by filing the information called for they would be disclosing the real state of the collections.

2. That the information required could not be given. I did not find that any one had made the attempt.

3. From special enquiry I have since made through the Collector I understand that the main objection of the Zemindars is to forms VI and VII giving particulars of rent-free and service tenures which they say are not obtainable from their village papers which refer only to rent-paying and not to rent-free holdings; particulars of which are only to be found in the Collector's office. This part is referred to in Para VII C of the Zemindar's memorial and I should be disposed to concede it and dispense with the forms VI and VII at any rate during currency of the present settlement. These forms were proposed before the bill for compulsory registration and possessory titles now before Council was drafted and if that bill pass into law I believe there will be no need to maintain Putwaree Registers VI. and VII.—

4. A further difficulty will as pointed out in Para VII B of the Memorial be experienced in giving the settlement number and area of each field. The fact is, so little regard has been paid by Zemindars to the original settlement it may be said to have been obliterated except as fixing the Zemindar's revenue, rents and rights having lapsed into an inconceivable muddle.

5. It was mainly with a view to definite and proper management and collection of rents and maintenance of rents rights that the demand for Putwaree papers has been revised, and I am of opinion that we cannot and ought not to ignore the original demarcation and measurement of plots which formed the ground work of existing settlement, but admitting the undoubted trouble and difficulty Zemindars may have in identifying and entering every plot or field they may properly be allowed ample time and opportunity to ascertain and enter details and it will suffice to insist on the survey and settlement number and areas of plots being given for ¼ of an estate during four consecutive years so that at expiry of the fourth year the information should be complete.

6 I am desirous of introducing the Putwaree rules continuously (?) and considerately and I have impressed this on all the District Collectors so that Zemindars may be assisted and encouraged to help themselves and their people by preparation of correct accounts of lands, rents, collections and balances.

7. I have carefully gone over the whole series of forms with a view if possible to ascertain if any other portions of them can be with propriety dispensed with; the forms though formidable otherwise are exceedingly easy to understand and comprise no more information than every intelligent landed proprietor ought to be able to afford, if he keeps regular accounts with exception of abandoning forms VI and VII and giving time to fill up details of plots and survey and settlement number. I do not think any further concessions can be made.

8 It is not a fact as the memorialists attempt to make out that landed property has deteriorated, the value of land and of Zemindari interests is steadily increasing and has continued to increase since the last settlement.

9. The rules simply provide for performance by existing Putwarees of their legitimate duties they are still nominated by and under control of the Zemindars and where Zemindars perform the duties themselves or by an agent there can be no grounds to fear the mischief dreaded by the petitioners in Para II.

10. The remainder of the petition is virtually for repeal of the new Putwaree rules but as these rules have been introduced after prolonged and careful discussion they should have a full and fair trial.

11. The memorialists may be informed that their duty is to legally (?) aid Government and local officers in introducing the rules which have been framed in furtherance of their best interests and that every tenancy (?) consistent with efficient working will be shown in carrying the rules into effect."

In the first place we cannot understand why in the face of the Government order deferring the enforcement of the Putwari rules till the next settlement the local officers should insist upon the appointment of Putwaries. The Board of Revenue in a letter dated the 4th May 1874, thus reported on the subject; we quote Mr. Secretary Grant's letter:

"In my predecessor's letter to Government No. (Paragraph 8 to 16) 621 S dated 12th December 1871, it was represented that Putwarees were not an indigenous institution already existing in Orissa, having become rather the exception than the rule, as the number of estates in which Putwarees had been provided for was found to be only 404 while the actual number of Estates on the Orissa revenue roll was 5304, and it was shewn that if more Putwarees were to be employed, and the system generally introduced, the attendant expense which would be considerable, could not under the laws in force, be thrown on the Zemindars during the currency of the present settlement, but would have to be borne by Government."

If such is the opinion of the Board then why harass the zemindars to perform a duty which they are not bound to perform, and which they cannot perform without serious loss and inconvenience? The Government has already disposed of the matter by ordering that the new rules will not come into force till the time for re-settlement comes, and yet the local officers carried away by excessive zeal are levying fines upon the zemindars. To what a position is our Government sometimes reduced by the overzeal of its officers?

Some of the reasons advanced by the Commissioner against the zemindars are simply ludicrous. He says that they do not like to disclose their income, but how can they conceal it when they have filed the Road Cess returns? We pass by his other arguments. He will not see that the returns called for by the Board cannot be furnished without a large establishment, and that zemindars whose average income per annum is scarcely Rs. 300 can hardly afford to entertain such an establishment. Then some of the particulars called for cannot possibly be furnished by the zemindars—they are not to be found in their records, and the ryots cannot be compelled to supply them. Again, the object of entertaining the Putwarees is as we believe to protect the ryots, but if they are to be under the control of the zemindars, what reliance can be placed upon papers furnished by them? If on the other hand the Putwarees were made independent of the zemindar, they would be a power above them, and who are the men, who will be placed as controllers of zemindari accounts—men on Rs. 3 a month! Could anything be more mischievous than the system of Patwaree accounts whether we look to the interests of the zemindars or the ryots? We do hope that Sir Richard Temple will make a sifting enquiry into the whole question, and prevent the terrorism with which the people of Orissa seem to have been seized. What could be more scandalous than that the Collector should go on fining men for neglect of a duty, which the Board admit does not devolve on them, and which the Government has under special orders deferred till the time of the re-settlement of the land revenue?

INDIGO-PLANTING IN BEHAR.

SINCE the days of Sir William Grey the question of Indigo planting in Behar has become a popular grievance. Some cases of oppression were brought to his notice and Sir William took special measures to investigate them and to give redress to the injured ryots. Two competent judges were deputed to dispose of the cases and the Police were instructed to do their duty with diligence and care. For a time the excitement subsided, but the evil re-appeared, and Sir George Campbell in his first administration report thus noticed it: "In Behar, on the other hand, indigo cultivation has continued to increase, and has been of late years very profitable. The planters there hold very extensive leases of villages, partly from the native landholders, and partly from the Court of Wards, which manages the great estates of several minor proprietors; and the relations between the planters and the ryots are somewhat more feudal and less mercantile than might be desired. Some of our officers assert that our dominion is unpopular in Behar, and several assaults on our Magis-

trates, which have occurred in the course of the year, might seem to give some colour to the assertion. These assaults, however, do not seem to be in any degree connected with one another, and they were mostly of a petty and personal character, so that it is probably a mere accidental coincidence that they should have happened in the course of a few months. It is, however, certain that on one or two occasions, previous to the year under report, there was considerable excitement on questions connected with indigo, which were only calmed by judicious concessions in respect of the prices paid, concessions which the planters can now well afford to make. During the Lieutenant Governor's visit to North Behar, he was in some places beset by crowds making complaint regarding indigo cultivation in a way that has not occurred to him in other districts; but he found that almost all these complaints had reference to one somewhat over-grown concern, and that such complaints were not general, or at any rate were not preferred in such a form. The whole subject is one which requires careful management, as a very little action, or even a very few words, might cause great complications on one side or other. On the one hand the Lieutenant Governor would be very unwilling to injure one of the most prosperous and profitable industries in the country; on the other, he is inclined to think that indigo has already occupied as large a proportion of certain descriptions of soil in the densely populated districts of North Behar as is desirable. In matters of pure merchandise things may most properly be left to find their own level; but in a case where the cultivation is to some extent feudal and not wholly and absolutely voluntary in all senses of the word it seemed to the Lieutenant Governor that, under all the circumstances, it was not proper that the Government officers in charge of wards' estates should give further direct facilities for an extension of the system by letting fresh villages to indigo planters. He has therefore discouraged new leases of the kind on wards' estates in excess of those already held by planters, while he has at the same time directed that every freedom and facility shall be given to planters to obtain indigo on mercantile principles from villages over which they have no dominion, a system which he would very much like to see more generally introduced." But there the action of Sir George Campbell stopped. Although his hand was raised against every body, he could not, it would seem, summon courage to enforce the principles which he so forcibly enunciated above. We believe Sir George received further evidence of indigo oppressions, when he released in the last year of his reign from one of the Behar jails some prisoners, who had been convicted on account of indigo affrays. The evil it should be borne in mind is not confined wholly to wards' estates. The system of Indigo cultivation in Behar as Sir George Campbell remarks is not voluntary; the ryot is not a free agent, and here it is where the root of the evil lies. The feeling among the ryots seems to be very bitter, and the Government we submit cannot long shut its eyes to the present state of things without gross injustice to the large body of tenantry engaged in indigo cultivation. The last number of the *Shome Prokash* contains a petition from a ryot to the Lieutenant Governor, which discloses a sad state of things. We give it below:

Your memorialist in hope and fear ventures to place his tale of woe before your Honor's Commisseration, a tale which although daily enacted in the parts from which he comes, seldom reaches your Honor's ear. He makes this surmise on the ground that had the facts of these oppressions been rightly placed before your Honor by any of the victims, attention could not but have been drawn to the same and the healing balm poured on the sore hearts of the oppressed tenantry with that grace and promptitude which has marked your Honor's rule.

Your memorialist is an inhabitant of Mouzah Hutsar, Tuppeh Champarun, Pergunnah Buhrah, Zillah Tirhoot, lying within the wide domains of the Maharajah of Hutwah. The village is held by Brahmins, his elder brother Sarbun Ojha and others, for the most part, whose ancestors, received a grant of jungle lands from the piety of contemporary rulers, and by industry changed the same into a smiling garden. Gradually their lakeraj tenures have been resumed, and at the present moment they are reduced to the status of tenants having a right of occupancy only. During the management of the Raj of Hutwa by the Court of Wards, the lands of the village were measured by a pole less by three "ungulies" than the usual standard of 6¾ hands, and by this trick of measurement, excess lands having been discovered, large increase of rent was demanded, which the cultivators being unable to pay, the village was given away in *thicca* to the Ambwa Indigo concern of Mr. Trip (?) whose head-quarters are situate within four miles of the village of Hutsar. The gentlemen of the indigo leaf immediately selected the finest lands in your memorialist's joint-holding, and insisted on their being planted with Indigo. The cultivators are forced to plant and rear Indigo against their will, the cultivation of which is very expensive and laborious, while their nominal remuneration is fixed at 10 rupees per biggah, which the tenants under the system of terrorism which pervades the land, darkening with its shade even the sanctuaries of the Court of Justice have no choice in accepting. Even of this 10 rupees for the first year even, what with deductions for "Zillah khuruch, dera khuruch" and the like, about five or seven rupees only reach the cultivator, who, thus in addition to making no profit by the cultivation of indigo in his finest lands, has no time or heart left to till the inferior lands in his possession for paddy or other food-grains. Your Honor's Government is fully aware of the result, the chronic famines which sweep over the land with much deadly effect, but may be, ignorant of the true cause, or if the cause has been noticed by the able officers who were deputed on special duty to enquire into the same, perhaps unconvinced of the truth of the same. It is the systematic rack-renting which is carried out with the aid and support and in the interests of indigo factories that crushes the people that keeps them always near starvation point, so that the slightest scarcity kills them off wholesale.

The people whose domesticity and deep-rooted repugnance for immigration are matters of history, cling to the land of their fathers with a death-grip. Under exorbitant rents, under lashing oppression they hold on, living from hand to mouth, chronic paupers to whom the first signs of scarcity prove fatal. But so grievously have they been trodden down that they have mustered courage to do violence to their strong instincts, and as your Honor's Government is doubtless by this time aware thousands of persons have left British territory and become Nepalese subjects. Is this then to be proclaimed as the index to the vaunted security and prosperity of the people under British rule? It is not an immigration of the criminal classes fleeing from the operations of the Courts of Criminal Justices, but a wholesale immigration of a tenantry who find it impossible to live under the crossfires of the factory and the landlord. Indeed the insolence of these tyrants often bids them depart to Goorkha territory before the cup of their misery is full to the brim.

Had he consulted his own personal safety, your memorialist would have borne his fate with the silent resignation which thousands have done and are doing. Indeed he does not know how far he has compromised the kind-hearted gentlemen who took pity on his misfortunes. But before taking the final step of forsaking with a heavy heart the holy land of Mithila and immigrating into Nepalese territory, your memorialist thought it his bounden duty to call the attention of the highest authorities of the country to his case which is typical of thousands which are of daily occurrence.

If your Honor should make a sudden trip to the portions of the country where the indigo canker is eating away the vitals of the people, so as not to allow of previous preparation and admonition on the part of the local authorities, receive freely all petitions offered and interrogate the people, in the absence of those whom they dread, and encourage them to speak out from the bottom of their heart by assuring them of their safety in doing so, the Government will, your memorialist feels sure, awake to a startling revelation.

Your memorialist being ignorant of the English language, laid his piteous case before a philanthropic gentleman who has kindly undertaken the trouble to draft this memorial. If he has anywhere transgressed the proprieties of law, it is from an ardent and keen sympathy for the wrongs which your memorialist has recounted, and he hopes that this circumstance will excuse his faults of language, if any.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

It is not for us to say how far the facts given in this petition are correct; but as an indication of feeling it is unmistakable. The condition of the people in Behar is the most important problem of the day, and with it are intimately connected the terms on which indigo is cultivated. The ryots are not allowed freedom of choice in the selection of lands for the cultivation of indigo; the area for the cultivation of food grains is consequently trenched upon; the price offered is not remunerative, the feudal power of the planter landlord leaves the cultivator no alternative but to do as he is bid to do, and thus a system of serfage is fostered, which is a scandal to our Government. All this is admitted by Government, for the extract we give from Sir George Campbell's report contains these admissions, and yet nothing is done by it to remedy this state of things. May we venture to express a hope that Sir Richard Temple will prove equal to the occasion and do what his predecessors had left undone? Sir Richard makes the following remarks on the subject in his last administration report: "Some years ago, in 1868-69, an outbreak of serious disputes was threatened, like those which occurred in Bengal in 1860. This was averted mainly by judicious concessions on the part of the planters. Even now, however, it cannot be said that discontent has ceased, for complaints are occasionally made; in individual estates serious disputes have arisen, and grave anxiety respecting the future is sometimes felt by those who pay regard to the ryots as well as by those who sympathize with the planters. In short, the hope of this great and valuable industry being peacefully and safely carried on in Behar rests upon the probability that the indigo planters, who are gentlemen of experience, will fairly weigh the progress of the prices of all other staples and the wages of labor, in comparison with the incidents of indigo-planting, and will then arrange such remuneration for the cultivators as may be justly demandable under the conditions of the time." But a policy of inaction wont do. We submit that the facts which have been accumulating since the reign of Sir William Grey would fully justify the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry. It will not do to blink the facts longer. Forewarned is forearmed, and we hope Sir Richard Temple will give due heed to the warning, which has been coming for the last eight years.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES' ACT IN THE TOWN AND SUBURBS OF CALCUTTA.

THIS is a dirty subject, but sometimes we cannot avoid alluding to it. The Lieutenant Governor has recorded a very severe Resolution on the working of the Contagious Diseases' Act in the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta. The following is a summary of the results of the working of the Act during the past year as compared with the previous year. In 1875, the number of persons borne on the register at the close of the year was 7,925, and the number of persons newly registered was 1,204; while in 1874, 6,845 persons only were entered on the register, and the number of those newly registered amounted to 947 only. In the past year, however, the number of defaulters from examination had increased to 7,409 as against 5,263 in the previous year. The number of arrests made by the police at the same time increased from 802 for non-registration and 2,572 for non-attendance at examinations in 1874, to 1,054 and 4,588 respectively in 1875. The number of persons found to be diseased in the past year was 410 among those examined for the first time, and 2,288 among others; the corresponding figures for the previous year having been 254 and 1,773 respectively. Among the troops in garrison, the ratio of disease rose from 9·4 per cent. in 1874 to 10·3 in 1875; while as regards the civil population the returns of the various city and suburban hospitals show that 9,235 cases of venereal disease were treated as against 7,941 cases in the previous year. The Lieutenant Governor considers these results far from satisfactory. His Honor seems to be of opinion that "the rules had not been enforced with sufficient strictness," "that the measures hitherto adopted have merely affected the surface, and that far more energetic and vigorous action is necessary to reach the root of the evil, and to insure that protection which it is the object of the law to afford." Now, the question is whether the "amount of disease" prevalent among the civil population noticed by the Lieutenant Governor is due to a want of "more energetic and vigorous action" on the part of the Police. His Honor himself answers the question by saying that "as long as a limited area only is brought under the operations of the Act, and no control can be exercised over the male population of the town and suburbs, complete success can never be looked for." Again: "It is no doubt creditable to the police that 1,204 persons, who had hitherto evaded the law, were detected and brought on the register; but the fact that 410 of these, or over 34 per cent, were found to be diseased, and might, for aught that is stated, have been engendering disease for years, speaks unfavourably for the manner in which the rules have been hitherto carried out. These figures also indicate very clearly that the sources from which the large amount of prevalent diseases are contracted are to be found within the area which has been already brought under the control of the law, as well as the obvious action which it is within the power of the authorities to adopt with the view of counteracting the existing evils." Now, the "obvious action" referred to we submit is not quite obvious to us. More vigorous action means more oppression by the Police. The better instincts of society are against the law; if its object is to protect the health of the people, its indirect effect is demoralization and the deadening of moral feeling; in England some of the best men and women are arrayed against it, and although in India it has been submitted to in silence, it cannot be concealed that there is a widespread opinion that it has a tendency to destroy all vestige of proper feeling

in the unfortunate women, who, though they pursue the degrading calling, are in this country not wholly devoid of a sense of modesty. The more actively the Police will work, the more oppressive will they prove. His Honor seems not to be satisfied because the women are not more frequently brought before the Magistrate and are not sufficiently fined. He says: "All persons detected in evading the law should, the Lieutenant Governor considers, be severely dealt with, in order to deter others from the same offence; but the statements submitted show that five persons only were prosecuted by the police authorities, and of these, three only were fined, the rest being discharged. Unless more vigorous action is taken for the punishment of offenders, it cannot be a matter of surprise that over a thousand persons should be found defying the law in a single year." Again: "Similarly, there would seem to have been much laxity in the enforcement of the rules requiring attendance at the periodical examinations. Of 7,409 defaulters, 698 are not accounted for, about 2,123 attended after a reminder, and 4,588 were arrested. But of those arrested, it seems that 13 only were imprisoned and 151 fined, the rest being simply warned. What the amount of the fines imposed was, or what amount was really realized from the defaulters, is not stated. But, under any circumstances, it appears to the Lieutenant Governor that the measures taken to repress this growing evil—for experience proves that those who evade the examinations are usually diseased—were very inadequate. There also arises a question as to whether full effect is given to the intention of the law in the magisterial courts." Now, it cannot be conducive to public morals if these dirty cases were brought more frequently before the Magistrates. We are of opinion that the Commissioner of Police acts wisely by disposing of these cases departmentally. As matters now stand, it is said, with what truth we are not of course in a position to judge, that the Act has become a source of income to the Police, and the greater vigor enjoined by the Lieutenant Governor would we fear afford them greater opportunities for extortion and annoyance. We are afraid that His Honor labors under a misconception on the subject. The disease might have increased, but could it be said that it had been contracted in Calcutta only? The town has a large floating population, and it is therefore impossible to say where the disease is brought from, or to what extent it is imparted by vicious men. The law is one-sided, and it is scarcely fair to visit upon the unfortunate women the sins of men. The Lieutenant Governor admits that "he is fully aware that the matter is a delicate one, and that great difficulties, and perhaps greater evils, have to be met and guarded against." And if such be the case, why give the Police greater license to oppress by enjoining greater vigour? The law makes a distinction between women, who lead the degrading life as a profession by inviting promiscuous intercourse, and those who though fallen from the path of virtue have still some remnant of modesty left and live a sort of semi-domestic life. Is it desirable that the women of the last class should be degraded to the level of the first, that where there is some delicate feeling, it should be uprooted, that all should be steeped in our common pool of degradation and demoralization? This would however be the effect, if the "greater vigour" which the Lieutenant Governor enjoins should come into play. His Honor is quite right when he says that the root of the evil is not reached under the present system—but which is the greater evil, the non-registration of women, who do not outrage society by plying their trade in a shameless and indiscriminate manner, or the existence of the social evil itself. It is said that no legislation or administration can cure the latter evil, but it would be a greater evil if in seeking to check disease the comparatively modest women were hardened into reckless characters.

A BREACH OF THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

WE have before us the papers of a case which shew a flagrant breach of the Permanent Settlement with a Zemindar in Assam. The case is this. The Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills, Mr. Beckett, who was lately charged with the duty of determining the boundaries of the Garo Hills, has issued an order prohibiting Rai Protap Chunder Burooah Bahadur, Zemindar of Gouripore, to capture wild elephants within that portion of his permanently settled-estate of Pergunnahs Kaloomaloopara and Aurungabad, which lies on the left or eastern bank of the River Jinjeeram, and which has lately been included in the district of the Garo Hills. Section X. Act XXII of 1869 empowers the Government in the event of a question arising as to whether "any place" is within or without the boundary of the Garo Hills, to depute an officer to determine and decide on that question and his decision in respect to the *res judicata* is declared to be final. It is observable that section, read with Section IV. takes it for granted, that the district of the Garo Hills has well-defined boundaries. Indeed, the Law itself specifies those boundaries, which cannot be altered by executive authority. Mr. Beckett clearly acted under a misapprehension of the scope of the function assigned to him. It was his duty to find out the boundaries of the new district exclusive of and distinct from the boundaries of the circumjacent districts, which furnish so many points of departure, and not certainly to *encroach* no land forming for more than a century an integral portion of an old and well-known district. It is one thing to decide whether "any place" falls within or without a well-known boundary line, but a far different thing, and a much larger question, to lay down for the first time the boundary all along the confines of a new district. In respect to the former point, the decision of a Government officer may be declared final in accordance with established precedent, but decidedly the boundaries assigned by Section IV. of the Law to the new district cannot be ignored by the Demarcation officer, much less can his proceedings be considered final when he acts in opposition to the very enactment from which his authority is derived.

Mr. Beckett's object in fixing upon the Jinjeeram River as the boundary of the Garo Hills in the direction of Goalpara was simply to get a good natural boundary. He might for the matter of that have extended the boundary to the bank of the Brahmaputra, but he cannot go beyond the terminal points to which the law restricts him. His proceedings were confirmed by the Bengal Government evidently under misapprehension and because the real state of the case was not made known to that authority.

The Pergunnahs of Kaloomaloopara and Aurungabad form part of the permanently settled zemindari of Rai Protapchunder Bahadoor and have been held by him and his predecessors since the time of the decennial settlement. The privilege of catching wild elephants in the forest of his zemindary is vested in him by Regulation XXVII of 1793, the preamble to which expressly declares that the income derived from "phalkar, jalker, and bankar" properly belongs to the zemindar. In the Government accounts the income accruing from the grant of licenses to catch elephants is treated as an item of Forest Revenue, *vide*, Table V of the printed form of Revenue Return No. X. It is a source of income which the forest of his zemindari yields. He is exhorted by Section XXI Regulation VII of 1799 to improve his estate "to the *utmost*." How can he do this if the Government steps in and prohibits the capture of wild elephants by him within his own forests?

When the Marquis of Cornwallis made the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, he conferred full manorial rights on the zemindars, who entered into engagement for the payment of the public revenue. The Regulations enacted at the time define the privilege conferred on the zemindars; among others Section 44 Regulation VIII of 1793 recognizes the proprietary title of zemindars by declaring their right to receive malikana. Section VI. Regulation XIX of 1793 empowers them to appropriate the revenue assessable on invalid lakhiraj land not exceeding 100 biggahs found within the limits of their estate according to Law, all *ferœ naturœ* found within the limits of a landed estate, and not expressly reserved to the Crown by special enactment, belong to the Lord of the Manor. The zemindars of Bengal differ from the proprietor of landed estates in England only in this respect *viz.*, that the former have to pay a revenue to Government while the latter have not. The Law in respect to the right of property in wild animals found within the limits of a landed estate is the same in both countries, *vide*, in this connection, the opinion of the Superintendent and Remembrancers of Legal officers, Calcutta, in the case of Habang Ram *v. S.* the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup.

The revenue fixed on the estates of zemindars at the time of the Permanent Settlement was declared by Sections III and IV Regulation I, of 1793 to be unalterable for ever. Clause II Section VII of the same Regulation and Section XXI Regulation VII of 1799 assured them that no demand would ever be made on them for the augmentation of the public assessment in consequence of the improvement of their estates "*even to the utmost.*" All forest revenue accruing within their estates was made over to them untaxed, *vide* Preamble to Regulation XXVII of 1793. The attempt to enforce the provisions of para 8 of Assam Regulation I of 1873 within any portion of a Permanently Settled Estate is tantamount to a breach of the solemn promise made at the time of the Permanent Settlement to the zemindars of Bengal by the Marquis of Cornwallis, for Government would be thus realizing a revenue from one of the assets (Bunkur or Forest Revenue) of the Permanent Settlement, the *jummah* of which has been declared to be unalterable for ever. The case we believe has been laid before the Governor General in Council and we await His Excellency's decision.

WARDS' ESTATES—DURBHANGA.

WHILE we congratulate the Government on the general management of Wards' Estates, we have been pained to read the account of its management of the princely estate of Durbhanga. This estate was taken under the Court of Wards in 1860 on the death of the late Maharaja Maheswar Singh, Bahadoor, who left two minor sons, Maharaja Luchmeswar Singh, born on 25th September 1858, and Maharaja Kumar Baboo Rameswar Singh, born on 17th January 1860, and one daughter. The Durbhanga raj consists of about 2,466 square miles of landed property scattered over several districts, and it may be conveniently divided into four portions, viz—(A)—The Tirhoot portion, in the north-east of the Tirhoot district, managed from the head quarters (Durbhanga) by Lieutenant-Colonel Burn, general manager, with the help of Mr. Llewhellin as assistant manager. (B)—The Bhaugulpore portion, including the large pergunnah of Naridigar, under the resident management of Mr. P. Duff, controlled by Mr. Llewhellin, with three mehals in pergunnah Chai. (C)—The Monghyr portion, comprising the pergunnah of Haveli Khurruckpore, now under the resident charge of Mr. H. O. King. (D)—The Purneah portion, comprising the whole of the Dharmpur pergunnah which stretches from the Ganges to the frontier of Nepal. This large tract of country is under the resident managership of Mr. J. N. McQueen. Over all these portions extends the supervision of the general manager, Lieutenant-Colonel Burn. We take the following facts from Col. Burn's report. The following comparative statement shews the demands, collections, and balances of the last three years:—

	1872-73. Rs.	1873-74. Rs.	1874-75. Rs.
Current demand ...	14,10,368	14,88,919	14,87,848
Arrear demand ...	8,64,857	9,01,208	15,62,738
Total ...	22,75,225	23,90,127	30,50,586
Collections ...	13,35,086	8,17,381	13,15,399
Remissions by authority ...	64,289	11,413	4,598
Balances ...	8,75,850	15,61,333	17,30,589

At the close of the previous year the balance of Government securities in hand amounted to Rs. 29,17,200, of which promissory notes for Rs. 13,74,300 were sold out during the past official year to meet famine expenses, leaving a balance of Government securities for Rs. 12,42,900 at the close of 1874-75, besides Rs. 9,52,406 remitted during the latter part of the year under review, when collections began to come in. Since the close of the year promissory notes amounting to Rs. 3,00,000 were sold to meet Mr. Steven's Purneah, and Government revenue demands, and the raj now hold securities for Rs. 18,42,700. At the close of the year under review there were 320

khas mehals distributed among sixteen naib tehsil circles, supervised by five tehsildars. The total gross demand (in khas villages) for 1281 and 1282F, including the arrears of 1280, amounts to Rs. 19,26,629. Out of this amount Rs. 9,19,914, or a little less than one-half, was collected up to 31st March last, and of the latter sum Rs. 6,96,524 have been collected within the six months ending 31st March 1875. But as the proportion of rents that was to be collected on the rubee crops of the current year (1282F.) was fixed to be six annas out of sixteen annas demand for that year, the actual demand up to the close of March last can be assumed as Rs. 13,63,807, in which case the said collection will represent a little above two-thirds of that demand, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,43.893. The total famine expenditure amounted to Rs. 21,27,450, and the cash balances, which at one time it is said amounted to 80 lacs have been reduced to 18 lacs of rupees. The Member of the Board in charge says that he is aware that "the Government has now before it a very full and exhaustive report upon the condition of the Durbhunga properties in Tirhoot. He will therefore content himself here with observing that he fears any persistent effort on the part of the raj to realize the large balances now outstanding will only lead to wholesale desertion of the ryots. Symptoms of this have already shewn themselves, and are referred in the manager's report to the fact of the Government officers realizing Government advances, while the raj officers were demanding rent and raj advances." In other words the Government will recover the advances it has given, but the estate will lose its own, The condition of the ryots is best described in the columns of the *Englishman*. Our contemporary says:

"In Tirhut, Darbhanga, and Monghyr, the *thikadari* system has been followed, or, in other words, the land has been let out to irresponsible middlemen, who, in many cases, have specially contracted for a larger annual rent, in consideration of their receiving the sanction of the Raj to enhancing the rents of the subordinate tenants. The results have been a most whosale enhancement. The rent-roll of the estate, which, in 1860, was 16 lakhs of rupees, has grown to 20 lakhs, and the tenantry are 18 lakhs in arrears. In Monghyr, the increase has been from Rs. 27,000 to Rs. 47,000. In Bhagulpore, an even more objectionable system has been followed out. The Naridigar pargana has been absolutely handed over to a European resident, an indigo planter, who receives 10 per cent. on the collections. How far this gentleman is to blame for the fact, we do not venture to say; but the district officers report that in Naridigar as in Alapur in Tirhut, the rates of rent are *from* 200 *to* 300 *per cent. in excess of those current in neighbouring estates.* It was to be hoped that these exorbitant rents might be collected with, at least, seeming moderation. "Skilled European supervision," as it is euphuistically called, has, however, found violence and illegality its most convenient agents. If a tenant, or number of tenants, in any village are in arrears, a few sturdy Rajputs, or, since a military element has been introduced into the management, a couple of Masalman sowars are quartered on the village at harvest time, who prohibit the reaping of the crops on any part of the village lands till the arrear is paid up. Thus, the provident and the slothful, the indebted and the solvent, are all grouped together, and ruined by this infamous practice. To the credit of the Civilians of Behar, it is to be stated that they have struggled hard against it, have freely used their powers as Magistrates to protect the tenantry, and have been lately thanked by Government for their action.

The absconding of the rayats has, at the same time, become so notorious that the police have been employed to register their flight. During the year 1874-75, in spite of splendid harvests, over 5,000 families have sought refuse from English injustice in the Jungles of the Nepalese Terai. It is calculated that these 5,000 households, thus abandoned represent a total number of emigrants not less than 20,000. The tale of oppression is not yet complete. There is a single portion of the great Durbhanga estate, where the people hold at reasonable rents a fact for which they have to thank the considerateness of the ancestors of the minor Raja. Most of the estates in Purneah District has been, or is being, devastated by the movements of the Kusi. To any one who has not seen the ravages caused by this river, covering miles of country in a single year, with a great bed of sand, destructive of all vegetation, it is difficult to appreciate the utterness of the ruin that sometimes results. To meet this state of things, the old Hindu management allowed a peculiar tenure to grow up, whereby the rayat paid by results, or according to the area and nature of his land actually cultivated. Such a tenure is naturally rather troublesome to work, and, worst of all, is in the tenant's interest. The European official management is at the present time consulting its lawyers, and selecting a few wretched tenants to harass in the Civil Courts, the grand object being to break a tenure that has become fixed, and cannot be enhanced."

Mr. Geddes, who lately reported on the prospects of the crops in Tirhoot, has given a harrowing tale of the condition of this model Wards' estate. His report the Government has not thought fit to publish, but the *Englishman* has got hold of a few extracts, which we give below:

"Quite apart," Mr. Geddes wrote, "from the failure of the crop, in travelling there"—the Durbhanga property—"one had a feeling sometimes of desolateness, from the fewness of people to be met on the road or to be seen on the maidans The villages were few. The mile-tones on one of the principal frontier roads seemed almost a mockery. We were so much struck with the scantiness of population that, in the absence of people enough to ask about it, we began speculating to ourselves as to the cause why old fields should have been abandoned, why good wastes should not have been reclaimed." "I have further to submit that the anxiety among the population of these pergunnahs, as I understood their feelings, was about impending ruin, rather than impending starvation. It is true they talked of famine and death, but this was, for the most part, but a prelude to the *invariable tale of oppression and rack-renting.* I watched them carefully—their expression, their demeanour, the subjects up to which they led the conversation—and the above was the conclusion that I come."

Could any thing be more disgraceful than the state of things described above, and yet year after year the Board has reported upon it and the Government has reviewed its report without doing any thing to ameliorate the condition of the ryots? The management is vested in Europeans, and this is the fruit. The cash balances have by degrees melted away, and when the estate will be handed to the Wards after they have attained majority, what an account will the Government render!

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy, as notified, held his Levee on Wednesday last at 9-30 P. M. The change of hour in this grilling weather was really a relief. The crowd at the last Levee was as large as before, and some glass panes were broken as usual.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy left for Simla on Saturday last. During his short stay he seemed to have made a favorable impression on Calcutta Society. Courteous, communicative and frank Lord Lytton will both deserve and command success, if he goes on as he has begun.

IT IS noteworthy that the same Justices, who had at a previous meeting passed a vote of censure upon the Special Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, at the last meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their valuable services. The Committee have been thus vindicated, but the Justices, who took part in the two votes, have stultified themselves.

DR. PAYNE has done a public service by pointing out the futility of attempting bustee reform in Calcutta unless the whole question be treated as an imperial question. Neither the Municipality nor the proprietors with the exception of perhaps a few have means to carry out the desired improvements. Our own idea is that the Government should purchase the bustees under the Land Acquisition Act and then sell the lands, requiring the purchasers to build under the directions of the sanitary authorities.

THERE CAN be no doubt that those who take exception to the adjournment of the last meeting of the Calcutta Justices for half an hour are literally right. The word *adjourn* is derived from the French word *ajourner—a*, to, and *jour*, day, that is to say to put off to another *day*. But the adjournment we believe was made as a matter of necessity. The Justices being moribund do not take interest in their proceedings, and it was not likely that if the meeting had been adjourned to another day, and not for half an hour as it was, a greater number of Justices would have attended than there were then present, who were sixteen in number. We entirely agree with our morning contemporaries that the indemnity given to the Chairman for transferring the amounts of one minor head of the budget to another was irregular—but most of the independent Justices having left the corporation or ceased to attend there was no chance of carrying a contrary resolution. For our part we hold that so long as gentlemen allow their names to be borne on the Commission, they ought to attend the meetings of the corporation and do their duty.

SOME EXPLANATION was offered by Lord George Hamilton in the House of Commons regarding the long pending question of permanently filling up of the office of Advocate General in Calcutta. His Lordship in answer to Mr. Forsyth said "that the Government of India had appointed a committee to consider the expediency of filling up the office of Advocate-General of Bengal, and that the report of that committee had been the subject of correspondence between the Secretary of State for India and the Governor-General. The details of the scheme were not yet settled, and it would, he thought, be unwise, pending their settlement, to make any declaration on the subject." With whom does the responsibility for this delay rest? We believe that about a year ago the Committee referred to submitted their report, and the Government of India in forwarding it to the Secretary of State recommended the permanent appointment of Mr. Paul. But the Secretary of State chooses to keep this plum in his hands possibly for the benefit of some fortunate adherent of his party. In the meantime Mr. Paul draws full pay of his office, and so he does not care.

WE ARE sorry to learn that distress from drought is very severe in the sub-division of Madhubhuni. There is no want of food and the price of rice is not high, but the ryots have not the wherewithal to buy food. They have been impoverished by successive calamities, and are quite penniless. We hope the Government will take necessary steps to prevent death from starvation.

THE NATIVE public are curious to know what orders have been passed by Government in the two cases of Police outrage in Calcutta, we mean the Ghosal family's case, and the Shampookur case. As regards the first case we hear that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor made an incidental enquiry whilst on a visit to the Cathedral Mission College, and that the Deputy Commissioner of Police made a local enquiry, when he received the disinterested testimony of some neighbours. Two facts we believe are admitted, *viz.*, 1*stly* that the woman molested by the Police did not encroach upon the foot-path, and that she was wantonly interfered with, and 2*ndly*. that the Police had a regular *melee* and arrested persons, who were quite innocent, as some of them were discharged by the Magistrate. And yet no notice has been taken of the conduct of the Police by the Police Commissioner. With regard to the Shampookur case all the facts are admitted, and yet nothing has been done to punish the Policemen. It is edifying to learn that the man, who was pursued by the Police into the zenana on a charge of theft, has been acquitted by the Magistrate. The aggrieved, who conducted himself in a most orderly and gentlemanly manner, and who has laid his complaint before the Deputy Commissioner has not yet been favoured with a reply. We do hope that the Lieutenant Governor will show his sense of displeasure at the outrageous conduct of the Police in a marked manner. If the superior officers of the Police take prompt and proper notice of an infraction of duty or excess of zeal on the part of their underlings, the latter are not likely to go wrong.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE has recorded a minute giving an annual grant of Rs. 8000 to the Indian League—he calls it the "Indian Reform League," though we are not aware of the existence of any institution of that name, unless His Honor refers to the Vigilance Committee of that name

established in '57 by Messrs Longueville Clarke, Peterson and Mackinlay but now defunct—for the maintenance of a technical school, on condition that they will invest 2 lacs of rupees in Government securities so as to produce a corresponding income of Rs. 8000 per annum. His Honor says:

"I felt justified in agreeing to this grant-in-aid, considering that, if the sum of two lakhs of rupees should be thus raised and invested, it would represent an important and honourable enterprise undertaken by the natives themselves, and a praiseworthy munificence on the part of several native donors for the sake of practical science, an object of national importance to Bengal. Indeed, the Association deserves both the material support and the moral sympathy of the Government.

Subject only to the occasional inspection of the Director of Public Instruction. I would leave the management of the Institution to the discretion and public spirit of the Association itself, under such conditions as the members might settle among themselves."

This is a munificent grant, and if it be administered with judgment and moderation, much practical good may be done. We are glad to observe that the ambitious scheme of a College or Temple of Science, about which so much flourish was made, has been abandoned, and that a modest polytechnic school is now contemplated. This is as it should be. We wish that the details of the plan had been given and that the Government had retained sufficient control over the institution. European experience and advice are needed in the proper management of an institution of this kind. Mr. Locke of the Calcutta School of Art would make a capital superintendent of this institution. The sum of Rs. 16,000 for a single institution is no small income, and we hope it will not be frittered away.

THE ENGLISHMAN is justly severe upon Mr. Justice Louis Jackson for interfering in a matter in which he had no business to interfere. Our contemporary says that the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal had recommended the appointment of Mr. Geddes as Judicial Commissioner of Assam, but Mr. Justice Jackson pressed the claims of Mr. Ward. We are told that this interposition on behalf of Mr. Ward was a spontaneous act on the part of Mr. Justice Jackson, and was made without any communication to the Chief Justice, or the other Judges of the Court. "We can conceive," remarks our contemporary, "nothing more unseemly, or more opposed to the first principles of good Government, than for a Judge of the High Court to use his official position to obtain the veto of the Governor General on an appointment recommended by the Lieutenant Governor, unless he was prepared to produce substantial grounds of objection to the Lieutenant Governor's nominee." The writer goes on, "the assertion of an authority, as Judge of the English Department, to volunteer to the Government of India advice in the name of the Court, when neither the Chief Justice, nor the Judges of the Court, have been consulted in the matter is dangerous and demoralising." "To allow the exercise of such an authority," he adds, "is to confer on the Judge of the English Department the power of stabbing in the dark and under cover of the Court, the reputation of any Judicial Officer in Bengal. Of late years, the Judge of the English Department has acted as a sort of Mofussil Chief Justice; but such an assumption of authority is altogether unconstitutional, and is opposed to both the Act and the Charter of the Court. It is high time that this usurped authority should be checked, and that the functions of the English Department should be confined to their proper limits, and reduced to their legitimate proportions." We entirely agree. How was it that when Justice Trevor was in charge of the English Department of the High Court, we heard so little complaint? The service and the public were equally grateful to him for impartial dispensation of patronage.

THE MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION of Bombay have presented an address to Lord Lytton in which some important facts are mentioned. In the first place they point out that the total value of the cotton goods and yarns imported into India in 1874-75 was £19,387,270, which yielded a revenue of £921,538; and, to this revenue, the portion of the imports which was exposed to competition from Indian manufacturers contributed about £40,000 only. In the second place they observe that as regards this small portion of the trade for which Manchester and Bombay compete the former has many advantages. Coal cannot be obtained in Bombay under £2-4-0 per ton; and although much has been said of the comparative cheapness of labour in India, yet the labourers are so inferior that it is estimated by Europeans practically qualified to judge, that from three to five Indian operatives are placed on the work entrusted to one hand in England. In addition to all these disadvantages, the Indian manufacturer, in order to overcome the difficulty of spinning from low classes of cotton, finds it necessary to put more cotton into his yarn. In the yarn spun in India it is found that from ten to twenty per cent. more twist per inch is necessary. In the third place the Association deny the statement of Manchester that the cotton enterprise of Bombay is worked chiefly with English capital and skill. They state that all the cotton spinning and weaving mills in the presidency are erected and worked with native capital, and they are under the superintendence of native Directors. In one or two of the mills there are, perhaps, a few European investors; and when Europeans are employed, it is only in the capacity of managers and engineers. These positions, however, are now being held by natives, and the employment of Europeans is gradually being substituted by that of natives.

THE APRIL No. of the *Calcutta Review* was published last week. It contains twelve articles and a number of "Critical Notices." The articles are very unequal, and the No., we cannot help thinking, is below the average. Review articles are expected to be careful, comprehensive digests of the subjects treated of, involving a larger amount of thought and research than can be conveniently devoted to newspaper leaders; but most of the articles in the *Review* under notice are limited to five to seven pages of large type each, which would barely make up a two-column leader of the *Friend of India*, and altogether they are slovenly and quite unsatisfactory. Thus, the 3rd article, headed "Indian Notes," extends to a little over five pages, and within that space disposes of the whole question of the present political situation of India and the existence of "dissatisfaction" and "disaffection" among the people. The editor of a respectable weekly would have thought twice over before inserting it as a leader. The article on Putni is equally brief and equally perfunctory. Its author, after a long quotation from Wilson and sundry references to other writers, enters into a dissertation on the borrowing of English vocables by Young Bengal which culminates in the assumption that the *i* of Putni is a Persian affix borrowed by the Hindus. Unfortunately, however, for the author, though languages borrow vocables very extensively from their neighbours, thy seldom have recourse to foreign grammatical regimen, and the most rabid B. A. of the Calcutta University has not yet got up *bhalaly* or *bhalaness* for good-ness or good-ly. In the whole range of the Urdu, which in the florid style of the last days of the Delhi and Oudh Courts comprised from sixty to seventy five per cent of Persian vocables, there is little beside Hindi affixes. But what is more the Persian is extremely poor in *tadhit* and *kridanta* affixes, whereas in Sanskrit and Bengali the affix i is in extensive use. Thus the foundation being undermined, the paper, as it is, falls to the ground. The public had a right to expect a much fuller and more complete essay on Putni in a periodical of the high character of the *Calcutta Review*. The article on the "Black Pamphlet" is equally unsatisfactory and brief, without including in that brevity the soul of wit. We have no sympathy for the pamphleteer, but we doubt very much if such phrases as "drearies and most stupid abuse," "spiteful without point, out-pouring of stolid Bœotian malice," "conceited libeller," &c.,&c., which dance through the lucubration of the *Reviewer* with all the extacy but without the inspiration of poetry, will serve to snuff him out. *Ubique* may well enjoy the wriggling and contortions to which he has put his critic. The facts and figures of the pamphleteer are not quite such as can be disposed of in six pages one-half of which is devoted to choice-flowers of neriadic ornaments of speech. The article on "Oriental Scholars" looks like a stop-gap, twaddling, superficial and incorrect. So is "the struggle for existence of the English Press in India" in which the old and oft-repeated story of Silk Buckingham's deportation is recited with "variations." Hunter's Life of Lord Mayo has, as was to be expected, a handsome eulogium. Dr. Hunter never sacrifices a good figure of speech, or a round period, for the sake of facts, and readily beholds on the Government House steps the "tall figure" of Lord Lawrence, who was just a little under the average height of five feet seven, and the *Reviewer* does the handsome to the author in no stinted mood.

ANOTHER case has been decided in Bombay, which shews the iniquity of the new Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Act. It is a parallel case with the famous Kabilpore case. Mr. Birdwood, District Judge of Surat, thus sums up his judgment in this case:

"On a general review of the facts of the case I find that Virwari is an *udhad bhandijuman* village, settled for hereditarily and of right by the plaintiffs and their co-partners in the grots at a fixed immutable rent independent of the quantity of land under cultivation and payable to Government, and as such falls, as Kablipur was held by the High Court, for the same reason, to fall within Section 8 of Regulation XVII. of 1827. *Secondly*. I find that the village is in a taluka ceded by the Peshwa before A. D. 1803 to the British, and that it has been held by the plaintiffs and their predecessors in title partially exempt from payment of land revenue, under a tenure recognized by the custom of the country for thirty years and upwards, and therefore falls within the claims for exemption mentioned in section 21 of Bombay Act VII. of 1863. I also hold that the village falls within the concluding proviso of section 23 of Bombay Act. I. of 1865, which saves it from having its assessment raised above Rs. 479-11-9. I think that the entries in the Government accounts from the year 1849 of Virwari, has, to a certain extent, rent free taken with the previous entries, which show the recovery for many years of a uniform sum, which was evidently a *liandhi jumma* revenue, less than the full assessable revenue, are sufficient warrant for the application of the proviso 25 of the Survey Act to the present case, as similar entries, though ranging over a longer period, were held sufficient in the Kabilpur case. I amend the decree of the lower Court. The plaintiffs are declared to be not liable to pay a higher assessment than Rs. 479-11-9 on Virwari; and the proceedings under which a higher assessment was settled on the village are declared illegal. The defendant is to pay all costs in both Courts.

In this case the lands that had been held for 100 years at Rs. 479 were assessed by the Revenue authorities at nearly four times that amount, and if the Civil Court had no jurisdiction, the poor cultivators would have received no redress. But the new Act shuts the door to such redress!

THE INHABITANTS of Santipore and adjacent villages have petitioned the Lieutenant Governor against the decision that the proposed Branch Rail way from Ranaghat to Moorshedabad, is not to pass through Santipore, but through Oola, to Krishnaghur, so as to save a few miles of road. The petitioners urge—"in this arrangement, the importance of a number of towns and villages, viz., Santipore, Culna, Guptipara, Fulia, Malipota, Baleghuria, Haripore and others, has been lost sight of. The foremost amongst these, Santipore, with its population of 32,000 souls, is a place of great trade and is the seat of that celebrated cotton industry, which, together with that of Dacca, supplies all Lower Bengal with fabrics of the most delicate texture. In one of its municipal districts viz., Sutraghur alone, the sugar manufacturers import annually by the Ranaghat road nearly 2 lac maunds of molasses from Chandpore, a mart in Jessore. The quantity also, of pulse, wheat and other *rabee* grains that are imported into the town from the tract to be traversed by the Railway, cannot be less than 3 lac maunds. It is moreover, as the second holy place of the Baisnavas in Bengal and as a city upon the Ganges, visited annually by large numbers of pilgrims (some of whom are from Assam and Orissa) the number on a single occasion that of the Rashjatra, amounting to upwards of a hundred thousand. Culna and Guptipara opposite to Santipore, are also well known places, and could supply a considerable traffic. The others are all populous and flourishing villages." We fully sympathize with the petitioners. We hope their remonstrance will receive due attention.

DOES MR. DISRAELI mean to take a firm stand against the advance of Russia in Asia? He made the following remarks on this subject in his third speech on the Royal Titles Bill:

"There is a country of vast extent which has been known hitherto only by its having sent forth hordes to conquer the world. That country has at last been vanquished, and the frontiers of Russia—I will not say a rival Power, but the frontiers of Russia—are only a few days march from those of Her Majesty in India. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I am not of that school which views the advances of Russia in Asia with deep misgivings. I think that Asia is large enough for the destinies of both Russia and England. (Hear, hear.) But, what

ever may be my confidence in the destiny of England, I know that Empires are only maintained by vigilance, by courage, by understanding the temper of the times, and by watching those significant indications that may easily be observed. (Cheers.) The population of India is not the population which it was in 1853. There has been a great change in the habits of the people. That which other influences have failed to do the introduction of railroads has done, and the people of India now move about in a manner which could never have been anticipated and are influenced by ideas which before never reached or touched them. (Cheers.) What was the gossip of bazaars is now the conversation of villages. You think they are ignorant of what is going on in Central Asia? You think they are unaware that Tartary, that great conquering Power of former times, is now at last conquered. (Hear.) No; not only do they know what is going on—not only are they acquainted with the conquering Power, but they know well the title of the great Prince who has brought about that wonderful revolution." (Hear, hear.)"

These are but dark hints. But if we understand them aright Mr. Disraeli means to maintain the supremacy of England as an Asiatic Power.

IN REPLY to a question from Mr. Harrison Lord George Hamilton made the following remarks in the House of Commons regarding the Presidency Magistrates' Bill:

"Lord G HAMILTON said,—The Presidency Magistrates Bill appears to have been introduced into the Indian Legislative Council before the receipt by the Governor-General of the despatch of the 31st of March, 1874, requesting him to furnish the Secretary of State in Council with information concerning intended Government legislation We know, however, from papers received by the last mail, that this Bill has been republished in the *Gazette* with a view of inviting criticism. Its chief object is to apply the rules of the Indian Code of Criminal Procedure to the jurisdiction of magistrates in the Presidency towns. There is no doubt that the measure, which consists of 351 sections, is on the whole expedient, but as to the power of appeal against an acquittal, it is a point for consideration whether it should apply to the Presidency towns. The matter will not fail to have the attention of the Secretary of State in Council. At present he must either assent to or veto a Bill in its entirety, and it is very inconvenient to be compelled to veto a measure of this magnitude on account of one, possibly, objectionable clause. I am advised that the present enactment is not in excess of the legislative power of the Government of India."

But this is not a sufficient or satisfactory explanation. The Bill does away with the system of trial by jury for the majority of cases, and it is open to serious objection principally on that score.

THE FOLLOWING interesting conversation took place in the House of Commons:

"Sir C. Dilke asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government approved the following "Regulation" lately issued by a British Minister:—"Any British subject who shall, within the dominions of His Imperial Majesty the Mikado, print or publish a newspaper in the Japanese language, shall be deemed guilty of an offence, and, upon conviction thereof before any British Consular or other Court, shall be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labour.

Mr. Bourke.—The Regulation to which the hon. baronet has alluded was issued by Her Majesty's Minister in Japan in consequence of representations that were made to him by the Japanese Government respecting the publication of newspapers in Japan and in the Japanese language by persons who were British subjects, and therefore, according to our treaty with Japan, were not amenable to Japanese authority, but were amenable to the authority of the Consular Court. We have not yet received the full particulars, which we expect by the next mail, and, therefore, I am unable to say whether or not the British Minister's Regulation will be approved."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P
His Highness the Newab of Rampore	53	0	0
J. Pataviram Esq., Trichinopoly	13	4	0
Executive Engineer, Ranchee Division	14	0	0
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,, Mohon Gopal, Secretary Delhi Society	10	0	0
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,, Hurry Narain Banerjee, Kandi	13	4	0
,, Shama Churn Mittra, Nawgong	5	0	0
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ERRATUM.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*April* 19, 1876.

GENERAL.—*The 4th April* 1876.—Mr. Alfred Hinnber Haggard, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Buxar division of the Shahabad district, is appointed to have charge of the Serampore division of the Hooghly district.

Mr. Charles Randal Marindin, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Mozufferpore, is appointed to have charge of the Buxar division of the Shahabad district.

The 12th April 1876.—Mr. Samuel Simpson Jones, Assistant Magistrate and Deputy Collector Sasseram, is posted to the district of Durbhunga.

Mr. George Goodair Dey, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chuprah, is appointed to have charge of the Sasseram division of the Shahabad district.

Mr. William Robert Millar, Assistant Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahbad, is transferred to Chuprah.

Mr. Percival Nelson Langdon, Assistant Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Aurungabad, is appointed to have charge of the Nowadah sub division of the Gya district.

Baboo Dhanesh Chunder Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on special duty in the Irrigation Department, is appointed to have charge of the Aurungabad division of the Gya district.

Baboo Medni Persad, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, now on special duty in the Irrigation Department, is posted to the Sudder Station of Arrah.

Mr. George Stewart Park, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Saran, is appointed to act in the First Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, with effect from the date on which Mr. W. Wavell avails himself of his subsidiary leave.

Mr. T. D Beighton, C. S., is appointed to be a member of the Central Examination Committee.

The 13th April 1876.—The following officers are appointed to act as Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of the First Grade viz —

Mr. Behary Lal Gupta *vice* Mr. F. W. V. Peterson.

" W. H. M. Gun, *vice* Mr. R. Cornish.

The following officers are appointed to act as Joint Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of the Second Grade viz.—

Mr. G. Stevenson. Mr. C. W. Bolton.

The 17th April 1876.—Moulvi Mohamed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca, is transferred to Tipperah.

Moulvi Ramizuddeen, Supernumerary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, on leave, is transferred to Fureedpore.

Baboo Gobind Chunder Bysack, B. L., is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade during the absence, on duty, of Baboo Chundee Churn Bose, or until further orders. Baboo Gobind Chunder Bysack is posted to the district of Mymensing.

Mr. James Alexander Crawford, Collector of Customs, Calcutta having reported his return from furlough on the 29th March last, is allowed subsidiary leave for one week from that date to the 4th instant, inclusive, under Section 18 (b) of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. Robert Fulton Rampini, Joint Sessions Judge Julpigoree, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21 Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 2nd May next, or within fifteen days of that date

Mr. Winkup Hamilton Gordon, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is appointed to act as Joint Sessions Judge, and to exercise the powers of a district Judge under section 10 of act VI of 1871 in the Darjiling Julpigoree districts during the absence, on leave, of Mr. R. F. Rampini, or until further orders.

Mr. A. W. Mackie, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is posted to the district of Dinagepore.

Baboo Judu Nath Chowdry, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca, is allowed leave of absence under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, up to the 28th February last inclusive, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 28th January preceding.

The 18th April 1876.—Mr. Arthur Clifford Tute, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Baraset division of the district of the 24-Pergunnahs, is posted to the Sudder Station of Mozufferpore.

Mr. Harry Lee, Officiating Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, is appointed to have charge of the Baraset division of the district of the 24-Pergunnahs.

Mr. Herbert Hope Risley, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Captain H. L. Crossman, Commanding "B" Company, Darjeeling Volunteer Rifles, is allowed leave for twelve months, with effect from the 25th March 1876.

Mr. William LeF. Robinson, Commissioner, Chota Nagpore, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 3rd proximo, or any other date on which he may avail himself of it.

The unexpired portion of the privilege leave granted to Mr. J. F. Stevens, C. S., under orders of the 26th February last, is cancelled from the 30th ultimo, the date on which he was appointed to act as Judge of Moorshedabad.

Baboo Lolit Mohun Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maldah, is allowed leave for fifteen days without pay.

The orders of the 10th instant, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 12th idem, appointing Mr. J. Posford, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, to Nuddea, Mr. H. W. Mackenzie, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, to Goalundo, and Baboo Mohesh Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, to Gobindpore, are cancelled.

Mr. David Bird Allen, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is posted to the Sudder Station of Nuddea.

Mr. Henry Murray Tobin, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to be a member of and Secretary to the Committee for the management of the Zoological Garden at Alipore.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

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NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the audit and examination of the Municipal accounts for the years 1875 will be made under Section 34 of act VI (B.C) of 1863 at the office of the Justices from and after 8th May 1876 and that a copy of the accounts to be audited and examined will be open during office hours for the inspection of all parties interested from and after the 27th April.

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Under the permission of the Government of Bengal, the undersigned intends to publish in Bengali a weekly journal called the *Bangala Rajkeeya Gazettee* from the 1st of May 1876. This paper will contain all the articles of the Government Statistical Reporter, extracts of editorials from the vernacular news papers, besides news of the week.

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